

Rebel Tories defy Thatcher on secrets Bill

Majority cut to 37 despite 3-line whip

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government and the Prime Minister received a severe rebuff yesterday as they crushed the Conservative backbench attempt to reform the official secrets law but suffered in the process the biggest revolt since the general election and one of the most serious since 1979.

The Government's 101 majority fell to just 37 as it defeated Mr Richard Shepherd's Protection of Information Bill after a second reading debate.

Mr Thatcher's tactics of ordering all her MPs to attend to see off a private member's measure were savagely condemned on her own side of the House.

Nineteen Conservative MPs voted against the Government. About 50 more deliberately abstained, defying

the three-line whip which the Government had imposed in a break with precedent.

The rebels included Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, and Mr John Biffen and Sir Ian Gilmour, the former Cabinet ministers.

Among those going into the lobby with Mr Shepherd were many MPs, such as Sir Antony Buck, chairman of the backbench defence committee, who have been regarded as loyalists, a measure of the irritation which had been caused.

Parliament

It was being accepted on all sides last night that without the three-line whip against him Mr Shepherd would undoubtedly have won.

Although the Government's tactics succeeded senior MPs, still indignant at their treatment, were warning last night that it had already used up a lot of the backbench good will it will need to get through the next few difficult months.

More than 190 Labour MPs attended to support Mr Shepherd, a huge turnout for a Friday debate on which they were not officially whipped. Ironically the 33 votes of the Labour MPs who did not attend and the six Alliance MPs who did not vote would have been just enough to get the Bill through.

The rebel leaders claimed immediately after the vote that 70 Conservative MPs who had not attended had deliberately abstained.

The whips countered by suggesting that a large number of the non-attenders, in addition to ministers with duties in some far-flung parts, had been given leave of absence.

Although it was impossible to be sure it appeared that about 50 of the absent would not have been in the government lobby had they attended.

After the vote Mr Shepherd said: "I never doubted that Parliament would stand up for itself." He said that the Government had asked backbenchers to "jump like puppets."

The voting was 271 to 234 against the Bill having a second reading.

The big rebellion came despite an appeal during the debate from Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, to MPs to await the Government's own proposals which are to come in a White Paper in June with legislation expected soon afterwards.

He said that although the Government had been work-

ing since April last year on proposals to reform Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, which he said was too wide and too weak, the Government had not reached conclusions on some of the matters which Mr Shepherd's Bill covered.

He said it was simply not sensible to "scratch and scurry at this" or to take a gallop at the necessary detailed work in order to get round a tactical difficulty.

The matter should be dealt with by a government Bill. "The Government should propose, Parliament should dispose", he said.

He again declined to spell out what the Government had in mind or its detailed objections to Mr Shepherd's Bill. "It would be silly for ministers to start pronouncing on part of their work until they can consider the whole", he said.

Mr Hurd said the task of reforming Section 2 had become crucial for the proper functioning of modern democratic government and it should be done in an orderly and sensible way.

In one of the best Friday debates Mr Hurd could remember, the Government and implicitly Mrs Thatcher were subjected to a string of withering onslaughts.

Sir Ian Gilmour delighted the Bill's supporters with a sustained attack in which he said the Government was wearing the same "boomer boots" it had been using in the courts for the past few months.

The executive, he said, was dictating to the House in all its "naked crudity". He said: "The three-line whip is the parliamentary equivalent of the injunctions being issued against almost all our serious newspapers."

Mr Heath, receiving his own customary cheers from the Labour benches, said it was "completely and absolutely unacceptable" for the Government to have imposed the three-line whip.

Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader, said he could not believe the House would be so supine as to buy Mr Hurd's "pig in a poke".

Mr Shepherd told MPs that his Bill was "an appropriate vehicle for the proper discussion of issues that go to the heart of the relationship between citizens and the state and the Commons and the executive".

Dr David Owen, the former SDP leader, said it could have been a day of pride when the House exerted its control over the executive.

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Season's first catch of the Tay



Mr Bob Brownless, an Edinburgh businessman, holds up a 9 lb salmon, the first of the new season, which he pulled out of the Tay yesterday at the village of Kenmore, Perthshire, 10 minutes after fishing began (Photograph: Stephen Markeson).

Dollar and shares surge after US trade figures 'turn corner'

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

A wave of optimism swept through the world's financial markets yesterday, pushing the dollar sharply higher, on figures showing a \$4.4 billion (£2.47 billion) drop in the American trade deficit for November.

The US figures had a dramatic effect on share prices. The FT-SE 100 index initially jumped to show a 50-point gain, before steadying to close 43.3 points up at 1,786.7, a rise of £2.2 billion in stock market values.

Shares of companies with big dollar earnings rose particularly sharply, with Glaxo, Becton, ICI, BOC and BAT Industries all up strongly.

The dollar's surge pushed the pound down by 4 cents to \$1.7780. The US currency also rose by nearly 4 pence to DM1.6735 and from ¥126.65 to ¥130.40.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was 54.21 points up at 1,970.32 in afternoon trading. New York analysts said the data showed the US trade deficit was at last turning the corner.

Sentiment in London was also helped by news of a sharp drop in Britain's inflation rate to 3.7 per cent in the year to December, down from 4.1 per

cent in November, and the lowest for a year.

The US trade figures had been keenly awaited in the financial markets, in the knowledge that another large deficit could have resulted in a repeat of the turmoil that led to Wall Street's Black Monday, last October.

But the figures, showing a big narrowing of the deficit to \$13.22 billion (£7.4 billion) in November, from \$17.63 bil-

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lion the previous month, were warmly received.

"The markets greeted these figures with something approaching euphoria," said Mr Ian Harwood, economist at the City firm of Warburg Securities. "They were better than people dared hope."

"What we have seen today is a huge sigh of relief," said Mr Geoffrey Dennis, economist at James Capel, the broker - although he added: "It could be another false dawn."

Mr Martin Fitzwater, the White House press spokesman, said the trade figures showed the "export sector is

leading the growth in the economy".

President Reagan himself, boarding a helicopter for a medical check at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, said: "As I've been saying all along, the fundamentals of the United States' economy remain sound."

Mr David Jones, an economist at the Wall Street broker Aubrey Langston & Co, said: "Consumer demand may be cooling off. That's exactly what we need for a permanent reduction in the trade deficit."

The American government bond market jumped by two points in the belief that, with the pressure off the dollar, the Federal Reserve Board in Washington will not need to raise interest rates.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has repeatedly called for higher US interest rates in recent weeks. On Thursday, in the Commons debate on his Autumn Statement, he attacked US economic policy and called for further reductions in the budget deficit.

Treasury officials said yesterday that the Chancellor did not have any advance notice of the American figures, and pointed out that it was often

dangerous to read too much into one month's data.

There were also warnings in the financial markets about the size of the US trade deficit, which is likely to have totalled \$170 billion last year, and may decline only gradually.

One worry about the dollar's sharp recovery, if sustained, is that it could add to pressure for a rise in base rates in Britain. Yesterday, money market interest rates firmed to a level consistent with a half-point rise in base rates from their present 8.5 per cent.

Last month's inflation figures, showing the sharpest drop in the rate since April 1986, were encouraging for the Government, but they also underlined how out of line with inflation the growth in earnings has become.

Figures published on Thursday showed a rise in average earnings of 8.25 per cent in the 12 months to November, 4.5 points above last month's inflation rate of 3.7 per cent.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Employment, said excessive pay awards endangered the Government's economic strategy and jeopardized jobs growth.

Paper's victory on MI6 ban

The Sunday Times claimed a "significant victory" yesterday in its High Court attempt to beat the ban on reporting the memoirs of Anthony Cavendish, the former MI6 officer.

After a two-and-a-half-hour private hearing Mr Justice Kennedy relaxed the injunction granted to the Attorney General at the beginning of the month to allow almost two thirds of the book *Inside Intelligence* to be published.

The ruling came after the judge adjourned the case for three and a half hours to allow the Attorney General to specify by marking the book with a blue pencil which parts would not affect national security.

Lawyers for the newspaper said outside court the parts of the book still under the ban relate mostly to Mr Cavendish's work with the security service from 1948 to 1953.

Mr Martin Kramer, a solicitor, said it allowed them to publish information gained by Mr Cavendish about the security service as an outsider, but not as an insider. He believed it was now open to them to publish extracts referring to the late Sir Maurice Oldfield, the former Director General of MI6 who Mr Cavendish claimed was the subject of a smear campaign alleging involvement with male prostitutes.

Mr Kramer said that once the newspaper had time to consider the parts specified by the Attorney General it may still come back to court with a further challenge. The *Observer* newspaper, which was also banned by the High Court from publishing the memoirs, was not party to the action.

The Government's long-running fight to suppress *Spycatcher*, Peter Wright's best-selling memoirs, enters its next round on Monday.

The Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, is appealing against a High Court decision by Mr Justice Scott, refusing to impose a permanent ban on press reports of material from the book.

The judge rejected the Government's argument that newspaper articles containing extracts from the book were a threat to national security. The ruling, on December 21, was hailed as "a resounding victory for press freedom."

Factors in favour of press freedom put forward by three newspapers, *The Guardian*, *The Observer* and *The Sunday Times*, which contested the ban, were of "overwhelming weight," he ruled. Monday's Appeal Court hearing in London will be before the Master of the Rolls, Sir John Donaldson, Lord Justice Dillon and Lord Justice Bingham.

NEXT WEEK



Waldheim and the Nazis

Austrian President Kurt Waldheim faces an international commission of historians soon to answer charges that he knew about Nazi atrocities committed in the Balkans - against British commandos, among others. Starting on Monday, *The Times* unravels the documentary evidence

Jumbo answer

The solution to *The Times* Christmas Jumbo Crossword and the names of five readers who won prizes for solving it are published today... Page 17

IN PART 2

Ski alert

Have you taken out adequate insurance if you are going skiing this winter? Family Money, pages 28-30

Portfolio Gold

● There is £12,000 to win in today's *Times* Portfolio Gold competition, the weekly prize of £8,000 and the daily prize of £4,000. ● Yesterday's £8,000 daily prize - twice the usual amount because there was no winner on Thursday - was shared by three readers. Details, page 3. ● Portfolio lists, pages 27 and 30.

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Steel aims to restore authority

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr David Steel will attempt to restore his battered authority today by telling Liberals and Social Democrats that a merger must go ahead.

The Liberal leader, after three days of shambles which have left the prospects for merger hanging in the balance, will warn his party at the Liberal international executive committee meeting in London that the alternative to a single broad progressive centre-left force would be a number of small and divided sects.

Colleagues of Mr Steel said yesterday that it was now touch-and-go whether the Liberals could achieve the necessary two-thirds majority at next weekend's conference.

Mr Robert Macdonald said yesterday that the proposed merger would be judged by party members and the public alike at the end of negotiations.

Arab-Israeli clash at Muslim shrines

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Palestinian demonstrators fought fierce running battles with Israeli security forces yesterday at the two great Muslim places of worship within the walled al-Aqsa enclosure in Jerusalem.

The fighting erupted after Friday prayers on a day of mourning for the 40 or more Palestinians said to have been "martyred" by the Israelis in five weeks of disturbances. During the day yet another "martyr" was added to the list when a youth was shot and killed in Gaza after knifing a soldier in the leg.

The Israeli security forces had expected trouble, particularly at the mosque, and drafted more than 1,000 troops into the Old City.

At the end of prayers an Arab demonstration started at the south-eastern side of the mosque. Israeli and American flags were burnt and as white-helmeted border police moved in, the first stones were thrown.

A running battle then broke out the length and breadth of the enclosure and tear gas was fired into the crowds.

Police then began driving the Arab women back towards the golden Dome of the Rock and the men towards the al-Aqsa mosque.

A stretcher party from the Red Crescent first aid post by the Dome of the Rock, equipped with gas masks, ran back and forth dodging the charges from both sides, collecting those overcome by the fumes or beaten to the ground.

Five Arab youths were arrested and 17 needed hospital treatment. Palestinian sources said five others were injured in several clashes on the West Bank.

EEC backlash: Israeli officials are now resigned to the European Parliament refusing next week to ratify a new trade protocol because of disapproval over the situation in the occupied territories.

Sean MacBride, Irish patriot, dies aged 83

By John Cooney

Mr Sean MacBride, the holder of the Nobel and Lenin peace prizes and a former IRA chief of staff, died yesterday in Dublin, aged 83.

The Irish Republic's most celebrated constitutional and criminal lawyer, he was a co-founder and chairman of Amnesty International. He was also a principal architect of the European Convention on Human Rights.

He built up his international reputation as a human rights champion from 1963-1971 as Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists.

His stature as a world figure was enhanced in the early 1970s when as

United Nations commissioner for Namibia, he campaigned for its freedom from South African rule.

Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, described Mr MacBride as a statesman of international status, whose public career spanning more than 60 years was imbued with a strong sense of Irish patriotism.

Mr MacBride, who was born in Paris, still spoke with a French accent. Despite a frail appearance, he continued to be active at the Irish bar and to travel worldwide until he became ill shortly after Christmas.

His father, Major John MacBride, was executed by the British army for taking part in the 1916 Easter Rising.

His mother was Maud Gonne, a fiery Irish republican beauty whom the poet William Butler Yeats courted unsuccessfully.

A close associate of Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera, the Irish independence leaders, Mr MacBride opposed the terms of the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty, partitioning Ireland. He rose to become IRA chief of staff.

Later he tried to take the gun out of Irish politics and became leader of a political party. From 1948-51 he was minister for external affairs. He was the last surviving founder of the Council of Europe, of which the statute was signed at St James's Palace in London on May 6, 1949.

In 1974 he was awarded the Nobel

peace prize and in 1977 he added the Lenin international peace prize to his collection of medals. In 1978 he became the first recipient of the American Medal of Justice.

Mr MacBride was often a controversial figure. He provoked angry reactions from the Western media for his Unesco study on Third World news coverage.

More recently he was a thorn in the British Government's side in the form of "the MacBride Principles". These set out guidelines urging American employers to take positive action to end religious discrimination in companies run by them in Northern Ireland.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Transatlantic jet in engine mishap

A TWA Boeing 767 with 142 people on board flew for more than 400 miles across the Atlantic on only one engine yesterday before making an emergency landing at Goose Bay, Newfoundland.

The twin-engine 767 is proving increasingly popular on the long transatlantic routes and the aircraft is used for more than 900 flights a month by six leading airlines.

British Airways, which is being pressed to order the aircraft and use them on the Atlantic routes, is still worried about the safety of twin-engine operations.

Yesterday's incident was the first to affect a TWA jet in more than 11,000 transatlantic flights. The TWA jet was on its way from Gatwick to St Louis when the pilot reported a warning light on the instrument panel.

TWA said: "He had a problem with oil pressure". It added: "There was no danger and the aircraft landed safely".

Dealer is extradited Car strike set to end

Mr Harvey Michael Ross, bullion dealer, returned to West Yorkshire in handcuffs yesterday after being extradited from Uruguay.

Mr Ross, aged 44, who left Britain two years ago, will face theft and deception charges involving more than £13 million. He is expected to appear in court in Leeds on Monday.

He is the first Briton to be extradited from Uruguay.

He was tracked to a hotel in Uruguay, and even his marriage to a local woman did not prevent his extradition.

More than 60 striking Austin Rover drivers are expected to return to work on Monday after a dispute that caused the lay-off of more than 1,000 workers and lost production valued at £3 million at showroom prices.

The strike flared yesterday at the Longbridge plant in Birmingham after 68 lorry drivers protested that the company had broken an agreement by sending parts by rail.

The company said the works committee was recommending the drivers to return to work on Monday.

Theory on Tube fire

A discarded cigarette or match may have been responsible for a fire at Clapham Common Underground station, south-west London, this week. About 10 passengers were evacuated because of a fire involving two bags of waste paper immediately outside a mess room used by staff.

There is a complete ban on smoking in the Underground, except for staff being allowed to smoke in mess rooms. London Underground said yesterday that there was no proof of how the fire had been started.

BBC man in switch

Michael Cole, who lost his job as the BBC's court correspondent after the leak of the contents of the Queen's Christmas broadcast, has been named as its arts and media correspondent.

"I am looking forward to the new portfolio immensely and it will be tremendously exciting and challenging", he said yesterday.

Mr Cole tendered his resignation as court correspondent after he discovered *The Star* planned to publish a report about the Queen's speech based on remarks he made at a private festive lunch.



New meningitis worry

Merseyside yesterday emerged as another area with a high number of cases of the brain disease meningitis. Last year 88 cases of meningococcal meningitis occurred in Wirral, four times the national average.

Mr Alick Muskin, national officer of the Meningitis Trust, said that the situation in Merseyside was worrying as in many areas outbreaks of meningitis came and went quite quickly.

"However on Merseyside the incidence has been one of the highest for many years."

Meanwhile, the Mordshaw Methodist playgroup in Runcorn, Cheshire, was closed down because of a meningitis scare after two children contracted the disease.

A woman aged 66 from Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan, died yesterday from meningitis hours after being admitted to hospital. Doctors are carrying out tests to check if she died from the meningococcal strain of the disease.

MPs fight monopoly of students' union

By John Clare
Education Correspondent

Conservative MPs have launched a powerful campaign to break up the National Union of Students. More than 120 have put their names to a Commons early day motion calling on the Government to abolish the union's "closed shop".

They complain that a system of automatic membership is denying hundreds of thousands of young people a right that was extended to most employees by the Employment Act 1987.

The NUS fears that the motion heralds an imminent attempt to amend the Education Reform Bill. Five of the signatories are members of the standing committee that is considering the Bill.

Institutions of further and higher education have affiliated *en bloc* to the NUS since it was founded in

1922. The system has undoubtedly worked to the union's advantage.

Today it can claim to represent 1,400,000 students over the age of 16 in 850 universities, polytechnics and colleges. Fewer than 20 institutions and less than 2 per cent of the total student body are outside the NUS net.

The most important is the Imperial College of Science and Technology. Four Scottish universities declined to join the NUS when their own association was disbanded. The other outsiders are all small further education colleges.

This mass membership gives the union an annual income of about £1 million, or about 80p a student. It employs a full-time staff of 80, most of whom spend much of their time campaigning against the Government.

Mr Tim Janman, MP for Thur-

rock, who is the main sponsor of the motion, said: "We find it very galling that such a left wing body should be funded by public money through compulsory membership. We think students should belong to the NUS only if they positively decide to join it."

Mr Adrian Long, national secretary of the NUS, rejected the closed shop analogy. He pointed out that students were automatically members in the first instance not of the NUS but of the student unions at their individual institutions.

"Each institution decides whether to affiliate to the NUS in a ballot in which every student is entitled to participate." Some institutions voted on the issue every year.

Mr Long quoted from a speech made by Sir Keith (now Lord) Joseph in 1983 when he was

Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Sir Keith defended automatic membership. He said a student union was not like an industrial union; individual students paid no subscription.

The NUS's constitution says it is independent of any political party. However, it is generally run by one or other faction of the left. A Conservative student has not been elected to the 21-member executive since 1983.

Mr Long said: "We attack whichever Government is in power if we think it is harming students' interests. At present we are campaigning against the education Bill and the threat of student loans."

● A traditionalist education pressure group has accused a Church of England teacher training college of promoting Marxism, feminism and homosexuality.

Mr Nick Seaton, organizer of the Campaign for Real Education, complained after he was shown a copy of the reading list for a course offered by the College of Ripon and York St John's, North Yorkshire, entitled, "The politics of sex and gender".

Mr Seaton has been invited to the college this month to discuss his objections with staff and students.

The reading list includes books titled *Women, Resistance and Revolution*, *Pornography: Men Possessing Women*, *Female Desire and The Function of the Orgasm*.

Dr Gordon McGregor, principal of the college, said: "The course is not part of the teacher training at the college. But it is part of a psychology and sociology course."

He said: "Christians should not assume they have a monopoly of the truth."

Call for internment of Irish terrorists

A former Irish Republic cabinet minister has called for the internment of terrorist suspects on both sides of the border with Ulster.

Mr Patrick Conroy, a senior figure in Dublin's Fine Gael opposition party and former minister of justice and defence, said the men of violence had to be "taken out of circulation by locking them up".

"The vast majority of the people in the north and south want to be free of the scourge of terrorism", he said. "There would be a great sense of relief that firm steps were being taken to rid us of terrorism, and the fear of the terrorist psychopath."

He agreed that internment would be draconian, but said: "We have had 20 years in which the rule of law has proved incapable of dealing with terrorism. We have to have regard for the human rights of the ordinary citizen."

Internment without trial operated at the beginning of the current Ulster-based disturbances.

● The Ministry of Defence has instructed the Ulster Defence Regiment to investigate urgently claims that a serving officer was closely involved in the paramilitary activities of a "loyalist" organization.

The allegation was made by Mr Seamus Mallon, the MP for Newry and Armagh, who is deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party.

He has provided preliminary evidence of his claim to Brigadier Michael Bray, the UDR commander.

Yesterday Mr Roger Freeman, Under-Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, wrote to Mr Mallon confirming that the UDR has identified the officer.

But as initial inquiries had not confirmed the allegations, Mr Freeman invited Mr Mallon to supply further details.

● A Catholic man, aged 19, became Northern Ireland's first terrorist fatality of 1988 when he was shot dead in north Belfast last night. He was shot in the hallway of a house in Upper Meadow Street in the New Lodge area in what appeared to be a sectarian attack.



Mr John Walsh (right) argues with Mr Tudor Parsons, a miner, yesterday on a campaign visit to Blaenau colliery.

Scargill attacked on flexible working

By Roland Rudd

Mr John Walsh, the moderate miners' candidate for the NUM presidency, launched a scathing attack yesterday on Mr Arthur Scargill for refusing to discuss the possibility of flexible working.

Mr Walsh, Mr Scargill's only rival for the presidency, gave his support for South Wales NUM leaders who want to hold talks with British Coal over six-day production at Margam, West Glamorgan.

British Coal says Margam will not go ahead without an agreement, but Mr Scargill has rejected calls for talks.

Miners in South Wales started voting yesterday on whether their leaders should support Mr Scargill's case for stepping up a four-month overtime ban in protest at British Coal's disciplinary code.

The South Wales executive is urging its members to vote against calls to step up the action, which it claims could lead to industrial anarchy.

Mr Walsh, on a visit to the Margam site, said: "Arthur Scargill has given a blanket condemnation of flexible

working without even knowing any of the details."

"A proper trade union leader has a responsibility to his members to find out what is on offer. Once again Scargill has failed us. All he is offering is the same old medicine, only in bigger doses."

Mr Walsh said: "If we had a twelve-month strike to protect jobs then for goodness sake let's not throw 800 jobs at Margam out of the window without first seeing what is on offer."

Mr Walsh accused Mr Scargill of keeping the flexible

working issue alive as another diversion from his "arrogant record" which had not achieved anything positive.

"He may be regarded as a king but he has been mistreating his subjects and I believe more Welsh miners are realizing that he has been trading on divisions in the coalfields and has achieved little positive progress for this union."

Mr Walsh later canvassed support among miners at Blaenau pit, where he became involved in a heated exchange with a miner who accused him

of "throwing in the towel" on six-day working.

However, in spite of taunts from a small group of miners who claimed that no one wanted six-day working, Mr Walsh dismissed claims by the pro-Scargill campaign that it had at least 70 per cent of support among the 9,900 South Wales miners.

Mr Walsh said his support in the second-biggest coalfield was growing steadily because Mr Scargill had failed to secure a better deal for South Wales miners in favour of opposing job flexibility.

Meanwhile, Mr Henry Richardson, the Nottinghamshire NUM leader, attacked British Coal's decision to refuse to allow ballot facilities for NUM members at Bolsover colliery, north Derbyshire.

Although the NUM has a majority in north Derbyshire the pit falls in the area of the breakaway Union of Democratic Mineworkers. British Coal will not allow NUM ballot facilities in areas where the UDM is in the majority.

Mr Richardson accused the board of being "vicious" and said he would take legal advice.

Militant poll warning

The Militant Tendency intervened yesterday in crucial elections for the Transport and General Workers' Union by publishing a list of hard left candidates which it said would fight the "new realism" favoured by the Labour Party leadership.

Militant predicts that a hard left majority would give Mr Ron Todd, the general secretary, and other left wing officers more confidence to tackle the ideas of "new realism" by forming an all-

ance with Mr Arthur Scargill and Mr John Macreadie, the Militant deputy-general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association.

The group has launched a bulletin, *Militant TGWU*, in support of hard left candidates.

Man in the news

Tory fund raiser with flair

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

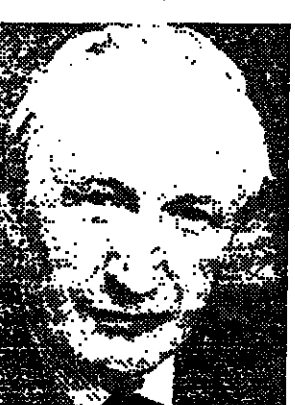
If you had bought £100 worth of shares in Sir Hector Laing's United Biscuits in 1965 you would now be sitting on £3,000. The huge food and restaurant group's pre-tax profits have increased 30 fold in that time, and growth in real terms has been 360 per cent.

The Conservative Party hopes that Sir Hector will bring the same money-making flair to Central Office, where he has been appointed joint honorary treasurer.

At the next general election, his ability to raise millions of pounds for party coffers will be critical, and with Lord McAlpine of West Green, his fellow joint treasurer, recovering from illness he is likely to have to shoulder much of the burden himself.

However there can be no doubting Sir Hector's commitment to the task. Apart from being a friend of the Prime Minister's, he is a long-standing and passionate Thatcherite.

She, in turn, could uphold Sir Hector as a shining exam-



Sir Hector: an example of "model industrialist".

ple of the model industrialist. He is supremely successful. He was Businessman of the Year in 1979. He has not been afraid to take on the unions (Aims of Industry gave him the National Free Enterprise Award in 1980 after his company took out a pioneering injunction against dock unions blocking his supplies). He also has a highly-developed social conscience.

Sir Hector, a Scot aged 64, is chairman of Business in the Community, a private-sector organization that helps small

businesses and other job-creation schemes.

He also started the Per Cent Club which has persuaded 115 of Britain's top 200 companies to devote not less than 0.5 per cent of their profits to the community. His own company seconds to public service one employee for each 2,000, making 17 at any one time.

Sir Hector was born into biscuits. His grandfather invented the Digestive.

After Loretto and a year at Cambridge he joined the Scots Guards (the same battalion as Lord Whitehall and Dr Robert Runcie) and became a tank commander, winning the American Bronze Star.

After the war he went into the family business, McVitie's, humping sacks of flour around the factory floor in Harlesden, west London. The company became United Biscuits in 1948. By 1965 he was chief executive. Since 1972 he has been chairman. UB has sales of £2 billion a year.

As chairman of the Conservatives' City and Industrial Liaison Council Sir Hector has been raising funds for the party for the past four years.

Avoid jail terms, says Hurd

By Sheila Gunn
Political Staff

Custody must be the last resort when magistrates sentence offenders, Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said last night.

"We must try to ensure that custody is used only when the offence is so serious that a sentence outside prison would bring the system into disrepute", he said.

Last year the prison population rose at one stage to 9,800

above the official capacity.

Mr Hurd told the South-east London branch of the Magistrates' Association that experiments are planned to help benches to impose an appropriate fine.

He said: "If we can persuade the public that a modest fine is not a let-off for a poor offender we may be on the way to restoring the fine to its proper place in sentencing."

Part of the pressure on prisons was due to the rise in

serious crime and the increasing workload of crown courts.

"But part of it is the increasing tendency on the part of the courts to resort to custody both for remand and sentenced offenders."

Mr Hurd also said that where a charge was trivial and for first offenders or those unlikely to offend again, punishment in the community with strict discipline and support may be a more effective way of dealing with them.

No sign of winter in January warm spell

By Ruth Gledhill

Exactly 12 months after southern England ground to a halt because of snow in one of the coldest winters on record, Britain is enjoying its warmest January for five years.

The temperature yesterday rose to 17 degrees above the reading for the same day last year in parts of the country, and was a mere one degree colder than the coldest day last summer.

Only London and the South-east suffered temperatures two degrees below average at 3C, as fog and mist patches blocked the sun.

Meteorologists confidently predicted that the country would continue to experience its mid-winter heat wave, with no sign of snow or easterly winds to break the spell, as farmers, still recovering from a year of record snow, ice, winds, floods and rains struggled to cope with the latest disruption to the normal weather cycle.

Crops are sprouting earlier than usual, giving rise to fears of a frost this month that could seriously deplete the year's grain yield. Thousands of cattle being kept in close

winter quarters are succumbing to colds and pneumonia in the warm, muggy weather.

The National Farmers' Unions yesterday urged caution on its members.

The temperature yesterday of 10C (50F) was four degrees above the average January day-time temperature, compared with -5.3C on 14 January last year, when Britain was still recovering from its coldest night since 1947, on the evening of the eleventh.

The temperature reached a height of 12.2C on June 9 last year, during the most recent cold spell.

There is no sign of the usual mid-winter lull to cold weather on the way: high pressure over northern Scandinavia which would bring in the type of cold air from eastern Europe that devastated much of Kent and southern England last year.

Meteorologists more reluctant than usual to venture a prediction beyond five days after the warning signs leading to October's gales went unnoticed, will later this year have the help of a new £5 million computer.

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Heart doctors call for extra beds to save sick children

By Ian Smith

Consultants at a leading heart centre said yesterday that adults and children will die unless more intensive-care beds are urgently provided.

Children must wait 12 months for heart operations because of the acute shortage of beds at Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, the doctors say.

They called on Yorkshire Regional Health Authority to relieve what they describe as an extremely damaging situation, forecasting tragedies unless at least three additional intensive-care unit beds are added this year.

Their letter, which mirrors problems facing Birmingham Children's Hospital, is signed by Dr Martin Myers, chairman of the hospital's consultants committee, three heart surgeons, five heart specialists, four anaesthetists and a cardio-radiologist.

It says that unless the waiting lists are cut, they foresee "an extremely damaging situation where increasing numbers of both adults and children will die".

"I do not want to panic those parents whose children are waiting for surgery," says Dr Myers. "The provision of more beds was one of a number of funding proposals under consideration for the next financial year."

Children suffering heart defects are referred to Killing-

beck from throughout the North of England and frequently from other parts of the country. Over the past two years 200 children needing heart surgery have joined the hospital waiting list.

An additional 120 children need emergency surgery. To meet increasing demand, the hospital should be performing about 325 operations each year.

Because of the beds shortage the number of young heart patients treated has fallen by 30 to 40 below the target figure.

Adult patients are having to wait up to nine months for surgery, competing with child patients for the six intensive-care unit beds available.

Work on an intensive-care unit extension, funded by £184,000 left in the will of a retired Leeds piano tuner and £100,000 raised by Mr Walker, was postponed last November when planners discovered that ventilation did not conform to standards.

Yorkshire Regional Health Authority said it was fully aware of the pressures at Killingbeck Hospital's intensive-care unit. The provision of more beds was one of a number of funding proposals under consideration for the next financial year.

Dr Joseph De Giovanni, a cardiologist at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: "We intend that this is his final operation." Matthew had three previous operations and plans for his fourth to repair a hole in the heart were postponed three times.

for a long time now. What we are facing today is an absolute catastrophe," Mr Walker said.

"I do not want to panic those parents whose children are waiting for surgery," says Dr Myers. "The provision of more beds was one of a number of funding proposals under consideration for the next financial year."

Children suffering heart defects are referred to Killing-

Fumes of foam fire blamed for 3 deaths

A young brother and sister and a friend of their mother were suffocated by thick smoke from burning polyurethane foam in a sitting room, an inquest was told yesterday.

Mr Peter Latham and the children's widowed mother, Mrs Margaret McCleod, were rescued from their blazing home by neighbours who were unable to reach the children because of the intense heat and choking smoke. Mr Latham died shortly afterwards.

Alexander McCleod, aged three, was found by firemen lying on the floor at the foot of his bed. His sister Mhairi, aged six, was later discovered on a mattress hanging between rafters below her partially collapsed bedroom floor.

The inquest at Northampton was told that all three died from inhalation of fumes, though alcohol intoxication was a contributory factor in Mr Latham's case. His blood alcohol level was found to be almost five times the legal limit for driving.

The fire at the house in West Street, Welford, Northamptonshire, happened last July after the couple had been out for the night.

Mr Paul Preston, who had been babysitting for the couple, said they had been a little depressed because it was nearing the anniversary of the death of Mrs McCleod's husband and Mr Latham was awaiting the outcome of a drink driving case.

Mr Preston told the inquest that when they returned, it was clear they had been drinking but were in a "better state" than on previous occasions. He said Mrs McCleod smoked up to 50 cigarettes a day and he had once seen her slumped unconscious with a cigarette in her hand.

The inquest was told that neighbours noticed the fire at 4am and raced to the house. Mrs McCleod and Mr Latham were dragged from the kitchen. She was severely burnt. One of the neighbours, Mr Peter Dolman, said he attempted to get on to the flat roof at the back of the house after hearing one of the children cry briefly, but he was beaten back by the flames.

Mr Tony Lane, divisional fire officer, said the fire had started at one end of the L-shaped terrace. "I believe it had been polyurethane filled. This type of filling has recently attracted much comment. In the early stages of the fire it would have generated dense smoke," he said.

He added that it had been impossible to determine what caused the fire but the most likely reason was a cigarette or match igniting the foam.

Mr Michael Colcutt, the coroner, recorded verdicts of accidental death and praised the neighbours' courage. A man was taken to hospital yesterday suffering from the effects of fumes from a burning foam-filled three piece suite, of the type being banned by the Government.

The fire at a flat in South Parade, Southsea, Hampshire, was believed to have been caused by a cigarette.

Style advice for MPs



Mrs Ann Martin, who is advising women Conservative MPs on the art of "power dressing"

By Ruth Gledhill

A fashion consultant is to advise Conservative women MPs on dressing better. Ann Martin, who runs a Nottingham-based business which teaches women how to dress, has already been to talk to the Conservative Women's National Committee on how to make the proper use of taste and colour when it comes to feminine power dressing.

Mrs Martin, who recently urged Conservative women to "stop playing safe" and discover power clothing, said: "I cannot divulge any information about what I will be saying at the presentation. I do not want to upset the Conservative Party."

The reaction among women MPs was to suggest that Mrs Martin should address her advice to the men and not the women. Mrs Virginia Bottomley, who described herself as an impulsive dresser, declared: "I think some

of the men at the House might need the advice as much as the women."

Blue-suited Mrs Angela Rumbold, who has a reputation for smart and stylish dressing and who often wears red in spite of her red hair, said: "I would have thought that women who manage to get into the House of Commons also know how to dress."

Mrs Rosie Barnes found the idea offensive. "It is a very sexist thing to do. Some men in the House wear very funny attire. I also resent the fact that how women dress attracts so much more attention than how men dress."

Mrs Martin said the most frequent type of client is "the middle-aged lady who has gone a little grey and is not quite sure what looks good any more". She often counsels men and admitted to having advised at least one public figure and the staff of a large company. (Photograph: Steve Etherington).

Portfolio Gold

Three win a share of prize

Three winners share a total of £8,000 in The Times Portfolio Gold competition.

Mr Frank Teague, aged 72, of Bellingham, Northumberland, described his unexpected good fortune as "absolutely marvellous". Mr Teague, who retired in 1980 as a buyer for an English china clay company in Cornwall, said he could not believe his luck.

He said that the money would come in useful paying off his credit card and other debts. He was sure he would have little difficulty disposing of the remainder of his windfall with his wife's help.

Another winner was Mr Geoffrey Holroyd, of Dukes Mead, Fleet, Hampshire. Mr Holroyd, an accountant aged 35, said he had been playing the competition since it started.

He expected he would use the money to buy a new car for his wife, and would probably have enough left over to go on holiday as well.

The third winner was Mr Leon Collins, aged 55, a Leeds solicitor. Mr Collins said he intends to put his money towards the cost of buying a new house.

Portfolio Gold cards can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
PO Box 40,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.



Mr Geoff Holroyd: a new car for his wife.

Magnus Pyke beaten in raid

Dr Magnus Pyke, the scientist, was attacked and tied up by a raider who stole property from his home at Hammersmith, west London, Scotland Yard said yesterday. Dr Pyke, aged 79, suffered an eye injury when he was punched and bound with ties from his wardrobe. The stolen goods were found later hidden in a street near by.

Anderton is investigated

Mr James Anderton, Greater Manchester chief constable, is being investigated by a special disciplinary committee of the police authority.

The decision is seen by many of the authority's 45 members as the first step in an attempt to oust him.

Tebbit renews attack on BBC news coverage

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Norman Tebbit, former chairman of the Conservative Party, renewed his attack on the BBC last night, criticising its coverage of the present health service controversy.

Mr Tebbit, who had a running battle with the BBC over alleged political bias before the general election, claimed that the corporation, and Radio Four's *Today* programme in particular, had lost interest in South Africa and was broadcasting instead a "torrent of NHS horror stories".

These were "thickly spread through the breakfast time,

current affairs and news broadcasts, and naturally the soap operas too," he said.

Mr Tebbit, speaking at Weybridge, Surrey, said he welcomed discussion on the NHS but the public was being fed a diet of "horror stories of wards closing, beds out of use from lack of nurses, or essential operations delayed by lack of medical equipment".

He said public debate on the NHS should centre on certain fundamental questions, such as limits to NHS expenditure, methods of raising funds, efficiency and privatisation.

Nurses join no-strike union

By Kerry Gill

More than 200 nurses, angered by this week's Scottish health service strike, have applied to join the Royal College of Nursing, which is opposed to strike action.

Requests for application forms have flooded into the college's Scottish headquarters in Heriot Row, Edinburgh, after the 24-hour strike by health workers which included more than 500 nurses.

The strike, in protest at government plans to privatise ancillary services, which affected hospitals in Edinburgh and Lanarkshire, involved the health unions Colnse and Nupe, whose membership in-

cludes almost 28,000 nurses in Scotland.

Mr Ron Curran, Scottish national officer of Nupe, said his union would call next week for a two-pronged industrial campaign, including a programme of rolling strikes.

Union leaders will meet in Glasgow next Tuesday. They are expected to call for a special meeting of MPs to discuss the health service and a day of action in Scotland.

In further strike action yesterday, more than 500 staff, including 16 nurses, at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital walked out, along with nearly 400 ancillary workers at two other Edinburgh hospitals.

Hospital managers were left

to prepare meals and clean wards after a walk-out by about 150 ancillary workers at a Scottish mental hospital.

The strike by porters, drivers and domestic staff at Gogarburn Hospital, near Edinburgh, was a continuation of a stoppage of Thursday involving 140 staff.

In Hertfordshire, 30 health workers, including 15 nurses, voted to continue their strike at a mental hospital over the suspension of two union officials.

The nurses and supply staff at Hill End psychiatric hospital, St Albans, were joined by staff at the St Albans City and Hemel Hempstead hospitals.

Rail deaths accused in knife arrest

John Duffy, accused of three railway murders, was arrested for possessing an offensive weapon six days before he is alleged to have murdered Mrs Anne Lock, the newly-wed secretary, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

A policeman said he saw Mr Duffy, aged 30, in the street in North Weald, Essex, on May 12, 1986. He said he recognized him as a man who was awaiting trial on a charge of assaulting his wife, causing

her actual bodily harm.

PC Peter Bassett said he stopped and said to Mr Duffy: "Hello John, what are you doing here?"

He said Mr Duffy told him he was on his way to meet a friend at Ongar and gave the officer the man's name.

PC Bassett said he asked if Mr Duffy had any objection to being searched. Mr Duffy agreed. The policeman said he found a silver butterfly knife in his jacket.

"I told him that it was identical to the knife that Margaret Duffy had described in her statement on the night he allegedly assaulted her. He said I could show her it if I wanted. Mr Duffy said: 'She would tell you it is not the one'."

PC Bassett told the court he then asked Mr Duffy what he was doing with it.

He said Mr Duffy replied: "All sorts of things. I use it at work to cut tiles with."

PC Bassett told him that was no reason for carrying it and he was arresting him for possession of an offensive weapon. Mr Duffy allegedly replied: "Oh, no."

Mr Duffy has denied the murders of Maartje Tamboezer, aged 15, Alison Day, aged 19, and Mrs Lock, aged 29, who disappeared on May 18, 1986. He has also denied seven rapes.

The trial was adjourned until Monday.

Old Masters modest but respectable

A week of Old Master sales came to a respectable finish in New York yesterday, although many prices remained within estimates and were modest compared with recent prices for Impressionist paintings.

Sotheby's had a 78 per cent success rate with its general paintings sale on Thursday evening, achieving a total of 10.5 million dollars (£5.7 million) for 220 lots. Top price was for an unusual view of a Brazilian sugar plantation, "Eugênio Real", by Frans Post. Featuring the master's residence and his special defence tower, it sold to an anonymous buyer for \$62,500 dollars (£32,097) against an estimate of up to \$80,000 dollars.

A quiet, still-life painting of a copper pot, pitcher, fish, glass, nuts and an onion by the French master, Jean-Baptiste-Simeon Chardin, sold for nearly twice its estimate at \$92,000 dollars (£43,434).

An unnamed New York dealer gambled \$80,000 dollars (£47,620) on a portrait of a bearded gentleman, attributed to Rembrandt in the catalogue. Scholars such as Professor Robert Havemann, of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York, consider

SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

it to be unquestionably authentic.

Among other top lots was a portrait of a young woman with long red hair, by Cranach the Elder, which had been consigned for sale by the Metropolitan Museum, New York. At \$48,000 dollars, (£24,052) it sold within its estimate to an anonymous buyer. Guardi's view of the Palazzo Ducale, Venice, sold for \$440,000 dollars (£239,130).

The general feeling among the trade yesterday was that the art market remained healthy with money still flowing and buyers showing a distinct preference for quality.

In London, Bonhams held its biennial sale devoted to marine paintings with private buyers, many fresh from the Boat Show, bidding strongly. The top lot, a painting by Charles Henry Seaborn of a galleon, HMS Queen, at anchor surrounded by smaller craft at Spithead, off Portsmouth, in 1842, fetched a runaway \$28,600 after being

estimated at \$12,000 to \$18,000.

Sotheby's three-day sale of the book collection of H W Pratley drew to a successful conclusion, with a total of \$549,571 made and 2.1 per cent unsold.

Christie's rounded off the week with a record total of 11.3 million dollars (\$6.4 million) for its paintings sale, in spite of the fact that 42 of the 117 lots failed to sell.

A lavish seventeenth-century still-life painting by Jan Davidsz De Heem, described as a "banquet" in the catalogue but bearing a closer resemblance to an abandoned orgy, fetched a record price for the artist of 6.6 million dollars (\$3.7 million). This was 5.4 million dollars more than the previous record.

The painting, crammed with details such as a bright-eyed lobster, fruit, shells and topped glasses on a rumpled cloth, was bought by a private buyer.

In general, it was still like

and genre paintings which fetched the highest prices, possibly because of the appeal of the subjects compared with the traditional Old Master fare of biblical scenes and battles.

Mr John van Haeften, the London dealer, spent \$30,000 dollars (£15,600) on a genre scene of a family saying grace within an interior by Jan Steen. It had been estimated at up to \$20,000 dollars. A painting of a wide-eyed and almost bare-bosomed girl by Boucher, the French artist, sold for the same price.

Another lavish still life, this time by Pieter de Ring, left its estimate of 60,000 to 80,000 dollars standing when it sold for 242,000 dollars. Other still lifes in demand included a hazy looking bowl of fruit by Cornelis de Heem, which sold for 242,000 dollars.

There were a number of runaway prices. The Irish painter, Thomas Roberts the Elder, came into his own, achieving 253,000 dollars, eight times the estimate, for a light-filled landscape dotted with stags and a doe.

Meanwhile, the West London Antiques Fair continues again at the Kensington Town Hall with a record 1,500 crowd attending the opening.

Ferry hero loses his business

By David Sapsted

A truck driver who helped more than 35 people to safety when the Herald of Free Enterprise capsized has received just £5,000 compensation for the loss of his lorry and one-man haulage business.

Mr Larry O'Brien, aged 32, yesterday estimated that his losses as a result of the disaster off Zeebrugge amounted to £75,000 and that it could take him another decade to pay off his debts.

He had no maritime insurance on the night the ferry sank and, consequently, the insurer's third party liability was limited to £2,900.

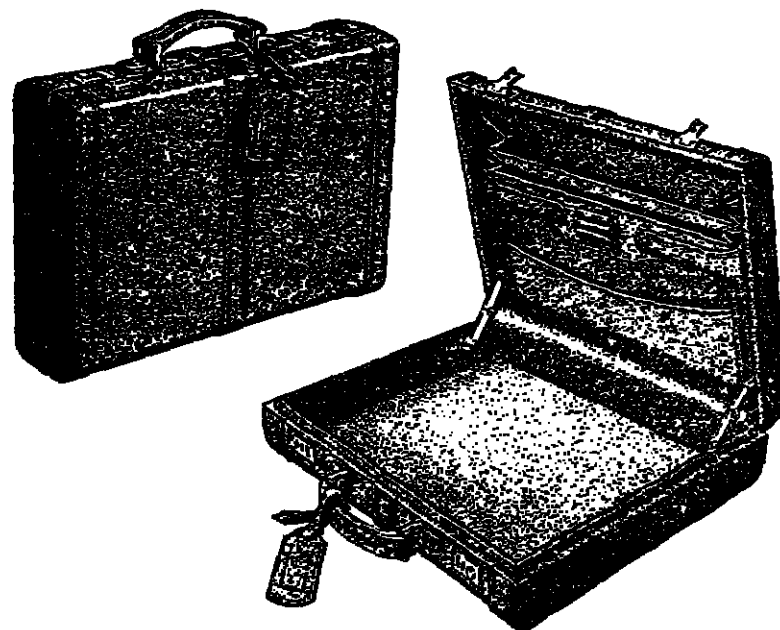
Mr O'Brien still owes money on the Ford truck he lost and was forced to shut down his business. He now works as a driver for Transcontinental Refrigeration, near his home in Co Wexford in the Irish Republic.

Mr Michael Brown, for the insurers, said last night: "It is made very clear on the tickets that the liability is limited."

He said lorry drivers should have made sure they had adequate insurance of their own. "One of the most surprising things has been the number of hauliers who did not have proper cover at sea."

Commendations will be presented on Wednesday to Alan Chapman, aged 34, and Derek McGrath, aged 28, both of Plymouth; Mick O'Brien, aged 35, of Lifford, and Buster Mottram, aged 25, of Dartmouth; and Ian Rodger, aged 28, of Yeovil.

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Social Trends

Growth in national prosperity conceals widening social gap

In 1986, it took an average worker about 45 minutes to earn enough to pay for a pound of rump steak; he would have had to work 57 minutes for the same piece of meat in 1981. A dozen medium-size eggs would have cost him two minutes less in effort, and although he would have had to work more than two hours to earn it, a bottle of whisky would have cost 20 minutes less work.

Behind those figures lies an unmistakable growth in national prosperity. Adjusted for inflation, and income tax, there was £114 coming to the average citizen in 1986, compared with £100 in 1980.

Total household income, in cash terms, grew by £120 billion in the same period. Mrs Margaret Thatcher's government might claim credit for that, yet *Social Trends* provides a reminder that its intention of "rolling back the boundaries of the State" has yet to be realized.

In 1986, there were about 800,000 more people employed in the private sector or

An unmistakable rise in household income has seen a corresponding increase in personal investment and spending. But the social gap remains wide. David Walker concludes his review of the *Social Trends* statistics.

in self-employment than in 1981. Yet the aggregate number of government jobs, including councils and the National Health Service, has not changed, while the nationalized industries have seen a big reduction in employment because of privatization.

Social Trends shows that about 9.5 per cent of net personal wealth was held in the form of stocks and shares in 1986, compared with 7.1 per cent in 1981, although in 1971 stocks and shares constituted more than 20 per cent of net personal wealth.

Incomes are less evenly distributed than when Mrs Thatcher took office in 1979, with the top 1 per cent of

income earners getting a bigger share. But the impact of the tax system has to be considered along with state benefits in cash and in kind.

The average income per household in 1985 was £9,070 and the average household also received £1,700 a year in state cash support, such as child benefit. Income tax and National Insurance cost £1,930 and indirect taxes such as VAT cost a further £2,000 and more.

Social Trends suggests that state benefits in kind, such as schooling and the NHS, should be counted as real income, giving a final income per household of £8,140. It notes that the real value of benefits such as schooling is greater than to low income households, while the latter receives more in cash support.

Households have been spending more each year on accommodation and consumer durables. A third have video recorders and more are being spent on the running cost of cars. Consumer spending on food has declined a fraction, with eggs, meat other than chicken, and milk and cream less popular.

For households as a whole, consumption of dairy products and red meat is slipping. The volume of eggs consumed in 1986 was 82 per cent of the 1980 level. But more chicken is being eaten, and fish consumption has risen by 8 per cent in 1986.

Social Trends: 18 (Stationery Office, £1).

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME 1985		
	£	Cumulative Total £
Average income per Household	9,070	
+ State Benefits in cash (eg Supplementary Benefits)	+ 1,700	10,770
After Income Tax and National Insurance		8,830
- Indirect Taxes	- 2,150	6,680
+ State benefits in kind (eg Education and NHS)	+ 1,460	8,140
Final income		8,140

Fruit machine trade answers critic

The fruit machine business is answering critics with an attack on the methods used to show that too many young people are addicted to gambling.

Last year Dr Emanuel Moran, a consultant psychologist and chairman of the National Council on Gambling, surveyed 30 schools. He found that in 25 an "appreciable amount" of gambling was known of and seen to be causing truancy and juvenile crime.

The main culprits, Dr

Moran said, are the "amusement with prize" fruit machines which are subject to fewer controls than jackpot machines and are found in fish-and-chip shops, snack bars and shops.

In May Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, announced an investigation into teenage gambling. Now the British Amusement Catering Trades Association says that Dr Moran's conclusions were unsubstantiated.

"There is evidence in the

survey that perceived gambling among school children is associated with other problems at school", the association says. "But it may be the case that these other problems are the cause of gambling rather than the other way around".

The association says that Dr Moran relied on third-hand reports from head teachers in four London boroughs, "a level of clustering which would exacerbate any local peculiarities".

Tapir Chico makes its debut



Chico, a tapir of the Brazilian variety born in London Zoo three weeks ago, being introduced to visitors yesterday by its mother, Eva. Chico will keep its stripes for only six months (Photograph: Tim Bishop).

Journey's end for the global cat

A cat that flew the equivalent of seven times around the world in the hold of a jumbo jet will be reunited with its owner next week - after one last flight.

Felix was found at Heathrow Airport on New Year's Day 29 days after climbing out of its travelling box when en route from Frankfurt to Los Angeles. It was frightened, thin and weak, having survived on water forming in the huge hold as condensation.

During its 180,000 mile travelling, the cat visited three continents and in Europe passed through London, Frankfurt, Paris, Rome, Zurich, Madrid and Nice. It was taken into care by Miss Jane Ford, a PanAm ground stewardess. Colleagues around the world paid for the cat's upkeep in quarantine and next week it will fly home to Los Angeles.

Warning on funding links

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A leading university institute which carries out research into criminal justice and the legal system has said that increasing reliance on government funding threatens to jeopardize the quality and political independence of its work.

Dr John Baldwin, director of Birmingham University's Institute of Judicial Administration, says it is under constant pressure to raise funds from outside sources, one of which is the Government.

As a result, researchers face pressure to "give greater emphasis to financial returns" which "could be at the expense of academic concerns".

Dr Baldwin says: "Even more serious is the danger that researchers may find they have surrendered their independence out of an understandable wish to please their

sponsors to generate further funding".

He says that it would be unrealistic to ignore or regard with disdain the exigencies of straight economics. But in judicial administration, as in many other areas of research, this preoccupation has meant that appropriate subjects for study and the way they are tackled are being determined to a growing extent by government departments.

Dr Baldwin, writing in a preface to the institute's annual report, says that none of its members has undertaken any project just to obtain funding, nor has any report been "doctored" at the request of a funding body.

"Yet the present political climate is such that it is imperative we be alive to such dangers and that we continue to debate the most appropriate relationship that should exist

between policy makers and the research community".

The institute was successful in obtaining outside funding last year. Among its projects are a study on legal advice for suspects in police stations, funded with a £59,000 grant from the Lord Chancellor's Department, a study on legal aid scheme, funded with a £41,000 grant from the same department, and a study of the role of the police in laying charges under the crown prosecution service, funded with a £53,000 grant from the Economic and Social Research Council.

It is also studying pre-trial settlement of criminal cases in the magistrates' courts with a £39,000 grant from the Leverhulme Trust and the workings of the administrative tribunals with a £40,000 grant from the Nuffield Foundation.

Family cancer link is possible

By Thomson Practice Science Correspondent

Close female relatives of women who show signs of developing cervical cancer should seek smear tests because of possible family connections with the disease.

In today's issue of *The Lancet* Dr Patricia Last, of the BUPA medical centre, London, describes six women with early stages of the condition who all had relatives suffering from the disease.

The Cancer Research Campaign is seeking volunteers for a study of families which appear to have higher than normal risks of cancer of the breast and ovaries.

Volunteers should write to Miss Elizabeth Skinner at the CRC offices, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AR.

Dixons fined

Dixons, the electrical retailer, was fined £9,000 at Colchester, Essex, yesterday for six offences of misleading customers over a "free offer".

Animal aid

North London Polytechnic has been given £36,684 by the Lord Dowding Fund for Human Research to evaluate the use of yeasts instead of animal tissue in experiments. The aim is to cut animal experiments.

'Racist' egg

Cadbury is withdrawing advertisements showing an Indian with a Creme Egg turban on his egg after complaints that they are racist.

Swept away

A man from Crewkerne, Somerset, was swept out to sea yesterday from the harbour wall at Lyme Regis, Dorset.

Car offence

Paul French, aged 20, of Shipton-by-Benningbrough, North Yorkshire, who served two years' youth custody for killing his bullying brother two years ago, was sentenced to 150 hours of community service at York Crown Court yesterday for ramming a partygoer with his car.

Final tee

Mr Martin McDermott, a Los Angeles golfer, who enjoyed playing at Ballyvaughan, west Ireland, has been buried at Killybegs cemetery, near the first tee.

January 15 1988

PARLIAMENT

Section 2 'has cast pall over national life'

The Protection of Official Information Bill, a private Member's Bill to replace Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, was defeated by 271 votes to 234 - Government majority, 37.

Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills, C) moving the second reading, said that the deficiencies of Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act were well known.

There was almost universal recognition that it should go and be replaced by a narrower, better defined and better targeted piece of legislation.

The present Act, which meant that the release of any piece of official information could mean a prosecution, had cast a pall over national life and had also affected the standards of the press.

That was because the Act failed to distinguish between matters of national security and those of generality that affected every area of life. "To have accountability and a democratic process we, the people and Members of Parliament and our electorate, have a right to information available with which we can hold government to account."

The Bill sought to achieve that by making only the disclosure of specific classes of information, which would cause serious harm to national security, an offence. It distinguished between information that should lead to criminal prosecution and the generality of information, which needed lesser, disciplinary controls.

The Bill would protect information relating to defence, international relations, security and intelligence whose unauthorized disclosure would be likely to cause serious injury to the interests of the nation or endanger the safety of a British citizen. Information would also be protected if it was likely to be useful in committing a crime or otherwise impede law enforcement.

Personal information supplied to government, such as details of a person's income declared to the Inland Revenue or from someone applying for social security, would also be protected.

Civil servants who recklessly disclosed protected information contrary to their official duty would commit an offence with a penalty of up to two years' imprisonment. There was a similar provision in relation to government contractors. It would also cover journalists and other citizens intentionally disclosing information, knowing it to be protected.

A person retaining protected information obtained in the course of his official duties or

after being asked to return it, would commit an offence, but the offence of merely receiving official information would no longer exist. These provisions would provide a very considerable deterrent against improper disclosure or publication of protected information.

But the Bill created new defences. It would be a defence for a person to say that the information that he had been charged with disclosing had already become publicly available, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

A certificate signed by the minister would be required under the Bill to indicate that, at the time of the alleged offence, the information was properly classified and that its disclosure was likely to give serious injury to the interests of the nation. If the defence wished to challenge the assertion that serious injury was involved, this would be done before the trial took place by referring the matter to the judicial committee of the Privy Council, whose decision would be conclusive.

One of the reasons why



Mr Roy Hattersley: No reason for trust.

Section 2 had not been used was that governments were no longer confident that juries would take the same line that they did themselves. Juries had difficulty in distinguishing between what was injurious to national security and what was, in fact, inconvenient to government, or bungling.

The doctrine propounded through the courts of a civil servant's lifelong duty of confidentiality to the Crown caused him great anxiety. It was an extraordinary proposition that the Commons might not look at any matter affecting society. Once the horse had bolted, however regrettable or disgraceful the conduct of the individual, what were they to do? There was a great folly in trying to deny to citizens commonplace information.

The press was trivial largely because of the restraints placed upon it by Section 2. It was too

easy for administrations to manipulate the information available to journalists.

They had manipulated the political press for so long that it had become a Hallelujah Chorus which rejoiced in government handouts, repeated them as if they were masterful pieces of investigative journalism and passed them off as if they were authoritative (Laughter).

They had created a vehicle for relaying untested political propositions. It was something that the press should stand up to because it discredited them. Many serious journalists would not wish to become lobby correspondents because of this symbiotic relationship.

This uncritical and slavish following of government press hand-outs had done the country a great deal of damage in trivializing political life beyond belief. "If we are to have respect for our institutions we need the best forms of information, and if we can get that information we can hold to account our own governments."

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South, Lab), said that if backbenchers were treated like office boys they would behave like office boys. They should be allowed to participate in the changes that must occur in the Official Secrets Act. Many of the problems were that Section 2 was a catch-all affecting every Civil Servant and every minister. The memoirs of every Prime Minister broke the Official Secrets Act all the time.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said the Section 2 as it stood had no defenders. The question in the debate was not whether the section was acceptable. Everyone knew it was not. "Section 2 is both too wide and too weak. It tries to cover too much ground and, partly for that reason, does so ineffectively."

It was wrong in principle that the criminal law should, even in theory, deal with such trivia as the colour of the carpets in a civil servant's office or what was on the menu in the staff canteen. It had given the misleading impression that Section 2 was concerned only with trivial matters and that it was oppressive.

"The choice is between taking this Bill forward, and waiting - not for very long - for fresh proposals from government on which Parliament can then decide." Officials had been working on a thorough and deep review of Section 2 to establish whether the difficulties could be overcome and the Act reformed. A White Paper would be published in June and early legislation would follow.



● The choice is between taking this Bill forward and waiting - not for very long - for fresh proposals ●

Douglas Hurd

The fact that a private member had brought forward a Bill at a time when the Government had already embarked on the very same issue, was a coincidence. "This of course creates a tactical situation painful for Mr Shepherd, certainly for me, and for the Government, though it is not actually the fault of anyone."

Mr Norman Buchan (Paisley South, Lab) asked whether there would be anything in the White Paper that was not in the Bill before the House.

Mr Hurd said that he could not answer that. (Laughter.) At present the work was about two-thirds complete and it would not be sensible to start setting before the House part of the ground covered and the provisional conclusions reached.

"There should be a Government Bill on which Parliament should pronounce. The Government should propose. Parliament should dispose." The House was not being asked to accept a blank cheque.

"What the House has to decide today is whether, on a matter which does lie at the heart of government, we are going to proceed with a private Member's Bill, or to wait for a short time until the House can analyse and consider the proposals of the Government."

Another dotty notion going the rounds was that the Government would propose some tyrannical tightening of the Act. It was surprising that anyone should take that charge seriously.

Once one decided that it was wrong to penalize all unauthorized disclosures of any official information one had to tackle the problem of deciding what disclosures of what

information should be unlawful. It was the questions associated with that problem that the Government had been working on and it had not yet finished the work.

"For us, this is not a languid, academic or spoiling exercise. The task of reforming Section 2 has now become crucial for the proper functioning of modern democratic government in this country."

Mr Hattersley, for the Opposition, said that Section 2 should not be tolerated any longer in a free society. It allowed suppression of whatever official information the Government chose to keep secret. It might be suppressed simply because the Government found it inconvenient to allow the people to know what they should know and had a right to know.

Nothing in the Bill posed any real threat to secrets. "This Bill draws a proper line between necessary secrets and news manipulation dressed up to look like the needs of national security."

For the House to be asked to trust the Government and to wait until June when one considered its performance and its proposals for manipulating or suppressing news was unreasonable.

Simply because the Government behaved foolishly did not mean it did not also behave tyrannically.

MPs were voting, not simply for a free press, but for a free Parliament, one that was not prepared to be told by the executive that this was not a subject for discussion or by the Prime Minister that this was too technical, complex and important to be dealt with on this occasion.

Sir Ian Gilmour (Chesham and Amersham, C) said that a good working rule would be that if the Russians knew something, the British people could know it too. The Government had resorted to the indiscriminate use of injunctions to prevent the press from reporting matters of great public interest. That was unacceptable in a free society.

It was not just a defiance of common sense for the Government to argue and for the courts to accept that British newspapers should not publish what was common knowledge. It was a grotesque absurdity.

"We see the executive dictating to the House in all its naked crudity. What the Government is doing today is what it has been doing in the courts for the last few months."

Dr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP) said that refusal to give this Bill a second reading meant that the present fiction of the Official Secrets Act was doing today is what it has been doing in the courts for the last few months.

● I am beginning to realize that there is a period of history in which I moved about which I shall never know the truth ●

Edward Heath

"Today is the day when the Patronage Secretary (Government Chief Whip) can get stuff done."

Sir Geoffrey Finsberg (Hampstead and Highgate, C) said he was not present because there was a whip but because he believed that this was not a suitable Bill for private Members' business.

He would like to see legislation that would retrospectively cancel the pension of anyone breaching their oath of confidentiality, whether they resided in England or Australia.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) said that the issue was being debated because certain public servants had told the truth and the Government did not want the truth to be known.

He could confirm part of what Mr Peter Wright had written in his book *Spycatcher*. MI5 had got rid of Mr Heath by discrediting him as Leader of the Conservative Party. He had evidence of that. Mrs Thatcher did not want to bring to light the processes by which the then Mr Wilson had been removed as Prime Minister.

MI5 were still discrediting people they thought were contrary to the national interest as they saw it.

The Prime Minister had reduced the BBC to a crawling, creeping servant of government policy and the three-line whip was designed to do the same to Conservative members.

Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) said that by decreeing a three-line whip the Government had challenged the whole basis of private members' time. It was a challenge to MPs to support the Bill. It was the House, not the Government, that permitted a Bill to go through or not.

It was on the elimination of unnecessary secrecy on the workings of government "that we have all failed to move into the present decade". He regarded the lobby system at Westminster as pernicious. The only way to get open discussion was to abolish the system.

The 30-year rule for the release of government information should be reduced. "I am beginning to realize that there is a period of history in which I moved about which I shall never know the truth. (Laughter.) I find this disconcerting and, not to say the least, worrying." (Renewed laughter.)

Mr Michael Heseltine (Henley, C) said that it would be better for the Government to produce a White Paper and then a Bill for proper Parliamentary consideration.

With the greatest reluctance, he would have to vote against Mr Shepherd's Bill.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South, C) said that on a free vote about two thirds of the Commons would support the Bill.

The review of the ministerial certificate was important. Seventeen years ago he had stood in the dock at the Old Bailey to answer charges under the Official Secrets Act.

The prosecution opened their case by saying that serious military secrets had been divulged. Later evidence had shown that all the information was in the public domain and the secret document had been read out to a press conference for use unattributively.

The Government's contention that its plans for reform of the Official Secrets Act were themselves still an official secret was too silly even for *Yes, Minister*.

Parliament should not buy a pig in a poke. Even if members poked the thing they could not get a grunt out of it. It was a dialogue of silence.

Mr Shepherd, winding up the debate, said: "Let the Government come back and say what was wrong with his Bill. It was a dangerous and silly concept for the Government to say that their Bill would be of greater integrity than anything you (MPs) can raise."



Mr Tony Benn: Truth not wanted.

Correction

Contrary to a report on January 14, Lord Beaverbrook has not undertaken to review the life of patents for new drugs in the context of the Copyright, Drugs and Patents Bill. He has agreed to consider the availability of licences of right for patents of pharmaceuticals which have been on the market for 10 or more years.

Lords Pledge on embryo research

Legislation on embryo research should be before Parliament within 18 months, Lord Skelmersdale, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, said in a debate on the Government's White Paper on human fertilization and embryology.

He said that Parliament needed to think very hard before closing off avenues, or preventing new ones opening up, to help infertile couples to have a child. The Government still had a need to research on human embryos should be banned altogether or allowed on human embryos up to 14 days old, subject to licensing and strict conditions.

It was generally agreed that some procedures, such as cloning and attempts to produce human beings with certain characteristics, should become criminal offences.

For the Opposition, Lord Emsdale, the former Secretary of State for Social Services, said that he fully supported controlled research on human embryos up to 14 days old. It would be unthinkable to call a halt to invaluable research.

Lord Meston (L) said that instead of remaining neutral the Government should heed the view of the Medical Research Council and back research on human embryos under licence.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, said that there was room for experiments on human embryos up to 14 days, but they must be hedged around with safeguards which made it obvious that respect for human origins was properly observed.

Lady Warnock (Ind), who chaired the committee on human fertilization and embryology, said that to make research on human embryos up to 14 days old a criminal offence would be a radical step. Some people feared that would arise from such research. But the descent could be stopped at any point and the way to prevent descending to unknown horrors was by means of a Bill.

The Earl of Landerdale (C) said that experiments on embryos or so-called pre-embryos differed only in degree and never in kind from the sickening human vivisection of the Nazi and Japanese doctors in concentration camps. All these were done in the name of science.

To permit research was a licence to kill without even trials for crime.

Lord Prys-Davies, an Opposition spokesman, said that if proper research was prohibited it would be a retrograde step and a price would have to be paid.

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Fears grow of crisis in Army

Argentine rebel colonel vanishes

From A Correspondent
Buenos Aires

A rebel Argentine army colonel was wounded yesterday in a gun battle outside Buenos Aires and disappeared, hours before a military convoy arrived at his home to rearrest him for leading a military rebellion last year.

The latest incident in the case of Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico threatened yesterday to throw the Argentine military into a new crisis after reports that the rebel leader was accompanied by a group of heavily-armed supporters.

The Government move brings to a head the confrontation in the Army between the middle ranking officers, who supported his rebellion in April, and the high command under the army Chief of Staff, General José Caridi.

Yesterday morning Lieutenant-Colonel Hugo Beltramino, the military judge handling the Rico case, went to the Los Fresnos country club in Bella Vista, where Colonel Rico was under house arrest, to take him to a military prison. Colonel Beltramino was supported by a military force of loyalists from the base at Magdalena consisting of 22 tanks, 13 armoured vehicles and 150 soldiers.

General Caridi stated that he would "maintain discipline through blood and fire should it be necessary", but when Colonel Beltramino arrived at Bella Vista he found that Colonel Rico had left and his whereabouts were unknown.

His wife told reporters there had been a gun fight in their home four hours before the military convoy arrived. She did not know where her husband was. "They burst into the house and a few shots were fired," she said. "He was taken off and as far as I know he is probably in the military hospital."



Tanks carrying troops loyal to General José Caridi, the Chief of Staff, passing civilian traffic on a Buenos Aires highway yesterday as the high command moved to head off the threat posed by Lieutenant-Colonel Aldo Rico, pictured left.

A rebel spokesman, Señor Ernesto Barreiro, said Colonel Rico was "slightly wounded" in the skirmish and that "to guarantee his security" he had been taken to an undisclosed place.

The Magdalena cavalry unit, loyal to the high command, was sent yesterday to the Campo de Mayo army base, where Colonel Rico launched his unsuccessful four-day rebellion and was later confined for eight months.

Officers at the base are still suspected of supporting Colonel Rico, who launched his mutiny demanding that President Alfonsín replace the high

command and grant an amnesty to officers accused of human rights violations.

Unconfirmed reports yesterday said General Caridi also ordered the removal of three army unit chiefs who refused to move troops towards Buenos Aires for a possible confrontation with Colonel Rico. These reports have been denied by the Defence Department.

Colonel Rico issued a public declaration rejecting General Caridi's authority and stating that his actions "would inevitably result in internal confrontation... the consequences of which would endanger the system's stability."

internal peace and national defence.

There is a question mark as to why the Government has moved to rearrest Colonel Rico now when it felt powerless to prevent him leaving the Campo de Mayo on December 31.

Sources indicate that at that time rather than preventing his departure, it quickly coiled together justification for his leaving by restoring him to his rank in the Army and reducing the terms of his imprisonment to house arrest.

There are fears that units might not now obey orders from the high command to confront the Rico group.

New battle breaks out in Angola

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg

Another large battle has erupted in southern Angola with the Luanda Government claiming that 6,000 South African troops, backed by aircraft and long-range artillery are again heavily involved in the fighting.

Pretoria is describing the Luanda claims as part of a "concerted effort" to divert world attention from successes by the rebel Unita forces.

Early in December — five days before the United Nations Security Council's December 10 deadline for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Angola — General Jannie Geldenhuys, chief of the South African Defence Force, said South African forces were pulling out "under operational circumstances", but added: "Care is being taken to ensure that the safety of our soldiers is not unnecessarily jeopardized during the withdrawal."

Military analysts pointed out yesterday that he had not committed South Africa to a total withdrawal of its forces from Angola.

Mr Pedro Maria Tonha, the Angolan Defence Minister, says that the South Africans' immediate objective is the capture of the important air and logistics base near the southern city of Cuito Cuanavale.

The base is about 125 miles north-west of Unita's northernmost base at Mavinga which Angolan forces came close to capturing last October. They claim they were halted by South African bombing raids and artillery.

● Envoys retaliation: South Africa is considering ordering the expulsion of Belgian diplomats in retaliation for Belgium's decision to expel three South African Embassy officials.

Ordeal in Afghanistan haunts Soviet soldiers

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Disturbing parallels between the effects of the Vietnam and Afghan wars on the men fighting them are revealed in an outspoken article in the leading Soviet youth paper. The report details the serious psychological problems facing veterans on their return to the Soviet Union.

In a supplement to *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the article admits that many of the returning soldiers are turning to drugs and alcohol. It quoted a doctor from a special clinic for Afghan veterans who are being treated for drug addiction as saying that they were suffering from war memories.

The emotional account of the experiences faced by the returning soldiers was the most graphic of a series which has started in the official media. The accounts reflect a growing weariness with the war which is an important factor in the Kremlin's increasing willingness to withdraw its 115,000 men.

One former soldier confirmed that the weaker veterans resorted to alcohol and drugs on returning home. "I feel sorry for them. You have got to understand, it is almost an incurable disease, when you cannot adapt to peacetime life," he said, expressing sentiments similar to those often made by Vietnam veterans in the 1970s.

He was quoted as saying that, for many of his colleagues, life back in the Soviet Union proved a great disappointment. "How we longed to get home," he said. "But now we have the feeling that we left what was closest to us behind in Kabul."

The soldier, Nikolai Fotiev, who was awarded the Order of the Red Star and the Medal for Valour before returning from

the war in 1984, said that one of the most difficult things was coping with Soviet red tape.

"We feel this particularly acutely," he told the paper, which is popular among young soldiers. "It is why so many of the boys shut themselves off or get angry and often apply to the recruiting office: 'Send me back there. I cannot stand it here.'"

He spoke bitterly about the soldiers' frustration with the reports in the official press of Soviet troops and poured

● Nerves failed because everyone knew that next time his bunk could be the empty one ... ●

scorn on the coverage of the war on Soviet television in what was an indirect attack on its main war correspondent, Mikhail Leschinsky, whose safari-suited battle reports have become a regular feature of the television news.

"The commentator would be sitting in an armoured personnel carrier, gasping into the microphone: 'Listen to the shooting, while a worn out raiding party would have to fire into the air to imitate a battle.'"

Other veterans described their experiences in Afghanistan with an openness not previously seen in the Soviet press about fear and moments of weakness under fire.

Mr Vadim Promyslov, who was in one of the first Soviet units sent across the border in December, 1979, described the death of a friend in moving terms. "You go to sleep, with that empty bunk next to you... now it seems

that we were not just mourning the dead. Nerves failed because everyone knew that next time his bunk could be the empty one."

"There were times when fear took over and made you a momentary villain. For instance, you see a friend wounded and you want to drag him out of the firing line, but fear tells you: 'Stay where you are, or they will get you too.'"

The anger about the callous, bureaucratic neglect facing many veterans — especially those seriously injured — was echoed in the official daily *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, which detailed the cases of three severely wounded conscripts who returned to Leningrad to find that their problems had only just begun.

The paper said: "Over there in Afghanistan it was a life or death situation and everybody understood who they were fighting against and why. But coming back home, they have met adversity and confusion."

It told of how one veteran who lost both his legs was forced to live in squalid, overcrowded conditions, how another similarly disabled had to wait for a long period immobilized because the supporting straps for his artificial limbs were not supplied, and how a third, a half-blinded sergeant, was refused permission to live in the same hostel as his wife.

"The survivors of Afghanistan without doubt bear terrible scars in terms of their nerves and peace of mind," the paper said. "But they are not to blame. We are to blame for the hardhearted inability to sympathize — a quality which our people once stood for."

Sakharov greets Gorbachov with human rights demand

Moscow (AP) — Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet Union's best-known human rights activist, met Mr Mikhail Gorbachov for the first time yesterday and presented him with a list of 200 political prisoners he wants freed.

Dr Armand Hammer, the American industrialist, who was at the meeting, said Mr Gorbachov listened patiently and was "very considerate" of Dr Sakharov's concerns.

Dr Sakharov is one of 30 board members for the International Fund for the Survival of Humanity, a private research group created at a meeting in Moscow earlier in the day to direct studies of problems posing a threat to mankind, such as the arms race, pollution and hunger.

The founders say the group will work independently, using contributions from corporations and individuals to finance research projects.

Mr Gorbachov spent nearly three hours talking with the board members, said Mr Yevgeny Velikhov, Vice-President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, at a news conference at the Foreign Ministry later.

Asked about his meeting with Mr Gorbachov, Dr Sakharov said that it was the first time he had spoken to the Soviet leader since he called

him in Gorky to say he would be allowed to return to Moscow after a seven-year exile.

"He is a man who is open to frank discussion and one who is able to understand and listen to the opinions of his interlocutors," Dr Sakharov said. "I have a great opinion of Gorbachov as a government figure and in personal terms."

Dr Sakharov, who returned from exile to his Moscow flat and his post as a physicist at the Academy in December 1986, said he made a presentation to Mr Gorbachov during the Kremlin meeting, but did not want to discuss details of it at the moment.

Dr Hammer, who is also a member of the Fund's board and its principal supporter to

date with a gift of \$1 million (£260,000), said Dr Sakharov used his turn to talk with the Soviet leader to present a list of political prisoners.

Mr Velikhov said the board members come from various countries but do not represent their governments or the organizations they work for. The organization will have three offices — Moscow, Stockholm and Washington — where meetings will be held to decide issues that need their attention.

But Mr Velikhov declined to say whether Dr Sakharov, who has never been allowed to travel abroad because of the classified work he did in the 1940s and 1950s in developing Soviet weaponry, will be allowed to take part in gatherings in the foreign capitals.

● Bribes jailing: The name of the former Soviet leader Mr Leonid Brezhnev was further besmirched yesterday when *Izvestia* said that his private secretary had been jailed for nine years for taking at least \$19,000 in bribes while working in the Kremlin for him before his death in 1982.

And the disgraced former leader's son-in-law, Mr Yuri Churbanov, former First Deputy Minister of the Interior, is already in jail and, according to Soviet sources, awaiting trial on charges of corruption.



Dr Sakharov speaking in Moscow yesterday.

Taiwan's opposition told to hold fire

From Robert Grieves, Taipei

Behind yesterday's scenes of mourning for Taiwan's late president, Mr Chiang Ching-kuo, the new regime of President Lee Teng-hui began to assess its goals and prospects.

President Lee, aged 65, is a scholar and specialist in agricultural economics. He was elevated to the deputy presidency in 1984 in an apparent move by the Kuomintang (Nationalist Party) to silence critics by sharing power with native Taiwanese and those in favour of independence.

It was Mr Lee who convened the Kuomintang standing committee panel that last year lifted martial law and allowed for the formation of

new political parties in opposition to the Nationalists. It was also Mr Lee who pushed the party to allow Taiwanese to visit their relatives and friends on the mainland.

But President Lee is considered to lack the broad support of the party that Mr Chiang enjoyed. He is also believed to have little influence with the military establishment.

Concern over this point prompted a professor at Taiwan's National Chengchi University to warn the fledgling opposition Democratic Progressive Party on Thursday not to take drastic action during the 30-day period of national mourning that ends on February 12.

Otherwise, the professor said, hardliners in the Kuomintang might press for the suppression of the opposition party. Such a move would divide the Nationalists between conservatives and progressives and weaken the process of reform, he said.

Despite this warning, opposition figures are already pressing the new administration for broader reforms.

Analysts in Taipei say Taiwan will be run for the next few months at least by a coalition of leaders including President Lee, Mr Yu Kuo-hua, the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Huan, the Kuomintang Secretary-General, and General Hau Pei-tsun, the military

Chief of Staff. One of their first assignments will be to find a new party chairman to replace Mr Chiang.

There are signs that President Lee will be able to exert considerable influence on the Government and the party. But Mr Chiang's brother, General Chiang Wego, may retain enough influence to control the military.

One sign of popular support for the new administration was the fact that the stock market stabilized yesterday after two days of fluctuations.

President Lee's main problem will be to adhere to a "one-China" policy without directly confronting those in favour of independence.

Refined US Aids test may safeguard blood

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

American scientists say they have developed a test which detects the Aids virus much more quickly and accurately than existing methods, and which could help ensure the safety of blood donations.

The test is able to identify the virus even when it is in a latent stage in human blood cells, and can be confirmed within three days, the scientists say in yesterday's issue of *Science* magazine.

Existing tests take up to four weeks to detect the virus. The new method concentrates on the nucleic acid, or genetic "fingerprint" of the virus and on copying or "amplifying".

The work has been carried out at the US Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, and the Cetus Corporation, of Emeryville, California.

Blood banks rely on existing tests for antibodies to the virus. But there is a gap of some months between an individual's blood becoming infected and the antibodies developing.

In another American study reported in today's issue of *The Lancet*, a drug called ddC appears to have improved the condition of a group of patients with Aids.

The drug could be helpful in treating Aids sufferers, either on its own or in alternating use with AZT, the drug widely used to combat the disease.

● LOS ANGELES: In an effort to gauge the spread of the Aids virus in child-bearing women and newborn infants, California is planning a test programme on 120,000 babies over a three-month period.

THE APPOINTMENT OF MAGISTRATES

Justices of the Peace in England and Wales are appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

*Appointments are made on the recommendation of local Advisory Committees.

The Committees welcome nominations of persons in all walks of life who are thought to have the qualities and time to serve as a Justice of the Peace. Any person or body may recommend a candidate for appointment. Candidates must be below the age of 60 years but preference is normally given to those under 50.

Recommendation forms and information on the selection process and what is involved in being a Justice of the Peace are available from the Secretary of the local Advisory Committee. His name and address are obtainable from the office of the local Clerk to the Justices.

*Except in the counties of Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Merseyside where they are appointed by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department, London



WISH ME LUCK
A WARTIME DRAMA ABOUT BRITISH WOMEN WORKING UNDERCOVER IN FRANCE
SUNDAY NIGHT AT 8.15
LWT

The former child actress who left long trail of clues

men were jailed in Saudi Arabia's capital last year for annoying women in public places, police said.

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Doubling back

If I have a small ambition left, it is to become a double international: to play for England at both football and cricket. But in sober truth, I have to concede that we have seen the last of the double international. Quite apart from the degree of specialization in modern sport, there is simply no time: cricket is played all winter and football all summer. How can a renaissance man cope? There are, so far as I know, two surviving double internationals: Willie Watson and Arthur Milton. Others no longer with us include A. Ducat, A. Lytleton, W. Gunn, L.H. Gay, R.E. Forster, J. Sharp, C.B. Fry, R. Makepeace, and H.T. Harding. Denis Compton and Patsy Hendren both played cricket for England, and won soccer caps for playing in wartime "Victory" internationals. Arthur Milton is now a postman in Bristol. He played in the Fifties, and his first contract with Gloucestershire was worth £200 for the season. Arsenal first paid him £8.10s a week.

Magic 151

Even at this early stage, I am convinced that here is the publishing event of the year. We all knew that Geoffrey Boycott's autobiography was one of the great landmarks of sporting history. But now the book, the fifth-best-selling non-fiction title of last year, is available in a new edition — a snip at £151. Those who love the man most will understand that the price reflects Boycott's 151 first-class centuries. Each of these latter-day Gutenberg bibles will be bound in leather and signed with the master's own hand. The special edition numbers, yes, 151, and each contains details of a single one of the Great Man's centuries. But there will be no more. After 151, Boycott will have Run Out.

Ice-breakers

After my revelation about the new and rising enthusiasm for women's ice hockey, I learn that in the 1930s there were several women's teams in the country. Marjorie Marshall, née Marriott, writes to express her support for the new wave of ice hockey women: she was part of the Sussex team that became the first English side to play in Paris round about 1931. This was a great event, she remembers: the team daringly went by air. She adds: "I have played many games (now reduced to bowls), and I reckon ice hockey is the roughest."

● Publishers please note: I hear that Peter Lush, the England team manager, kept a diary during the recent tour of Pakistan. And it's a veritable vindaloo.

Keeping pace

Plans are afoot to computerize the scoreboard at Lord's. The latest newsletter to MCC members says the aim would be to operate both from the same control so that they displayed the same information — "which in itself might be considered something of an innovation."

On to a winner

The Equestrian Christian Fellowship is going great guns. Mandy Myatt, who does a lot of work for the organization, reports: "Only a few weeks ago we heard of wonderful things God is doing in Newmarket among trainers, managers and jockeys. One third of the population of Newmarket is closely involved in racing in some way, and it seems that God is choosing to make the sport of kings into the sport of the King of Kings!"

● The most eminent people to be refused admission to the Chelsea barroom last week were Bobby Moore and Phil Collins.

X-certificate XI

The Rev Frank Garvey has selected a team to play against the Soccer Nightmares XI, so memorably produced in a recent Diary. His own team reads: Gary Sprake (Leeds); Jock Campbell (Charlton); Chopper Harris (Chelsea); Skinner Normanton (Barnsley); Tom Holley (Leeds); Will Copping (Arsenal); Maurice Setters (Manchester United); Tommy Smith (Liverpool); John Fashanu (Wimbledon); Dave Hickson (Everton); Harry Gregory (Charlton). A Times tennor for Mr Garvey for this splendid team. Richard Matthews suggests an improvement to the Nightmare XI: Peter Storey of Arsenal and England, as a winger.

BARRY FANTONI



"You're right, no mention of compact discs or Swatches anywhere"

Should Cambridge University go for the Big Bang? That, in the words of one don, a reader in English legal history, is the apocalyptic question the Council of the Senate will have to answer when its 17 members meet on Monday.

To put it more prosaically, the council has to decide whether to grant a petition signed by nearly 200 dissident dons calling for a committee of inquiry into the way the university is governed. It will also have to decide how far-reaching such an inquiry should be. The petitioners claim that Cambridge's fractured decision-making processes are inefficient and undemocratic. Some are convinced the place is in the grip of such a creeping paralysis that nothing less than root-and-branch reform will do.

The question derives its cosmic quality from a painful conviction that things are managed better at Oxford. The Big Bang is a reference to the Franks Commission, whose report led to a radical overhaul of Oxford's government more than 20 years ago. Distant Echo might be more accurate in the circumstances.

The debate is not always easy to follow. Much of it is conducted in an arcane language of Memorials, Graces, Ordinances and Syndicates. There are sometimes references to the "reforms of 1571". On the face of it, the issue is the nature of the relationship between Regent House, the dons' parliament, and the university's three central bodies, the council, the financial board, and the general board of the faculties.

Dr Anthony Edwards, a reader in mathematical biology and an old campaigner, describes it as a political system which has "lost the capacity to evolve from within". Another petitioner, Roger Fairclough, an under librarian, complains it is not easy to tell where true power lies.

But behind these constitutional intricacies there lurk matters of real importance. Can the university stand up to an increasingly interventionist government? Is it capable of responding to seismic changes ("The most threatening

Who will win the Oxbridge funds race?

by John Clare



Drucker (Oxford): £200 million the likely target

Squire (Cambridge): appeals for specific projects only

since the 17th century") as quickly and decisively as it should? Most poignantly, how has Oxford been allowed to take such a humiliating lead in the all-important fund-raising stakes?

The last question offers an interesting case study. After the government cuts in 1981, Oxford, moving with what for an ancient university must be lightning speed, set up an appeals and income generation committee.

It concluded that the university was going to have to take long-term fund-raising seriously. It proposed the setting up of a development office. The proposal was accepted by the hebdomadal council. In July 1986, Dr Henry Drucker, an engaging American academic, was appointed director. He now heads a full-time staff of six with six more soon to be appointed. Next October he will launch the biggest international

fund-raising campaign ("Don't, please, call it an appeal") that British education has seen. It will last five years and probably aim to raise at least £200 million. Some big gifts are already in the bag.

Dr Drucker, one suspects, regards it all as rather small beer. He points out that every self-respecting university in the United States has a development office staffed by scores of professionals (Princeton has 150) helped by an elaborate network of volunteers. Few would raise an institutional eyebrow at £200 million and none, he adds, would dream of launching a campaign designed, as his is, to run longer than it took to plan.

Cambridge, on the other hand, did nothing very much for six years, although \$4 million did flow in from its American alumni. Finally, last October, it announced the appointment of William Squire, Britain's ambassador

to Israel, as its first development director. A laconic statement noted that he would be in charge of a "small development unit which will aim to consolidate the university's fund-raising activities at a time of reduced support from the government".

When he takes up his duties in May, Mr Squire will find how small the unit is. He will have a staff of three and a computer. Meanwhile Geoffrey Slesley, the university's assistant registrar, is holding the fort. "What we are not going to do," he says carefully, "is launch one of those appeals which says, 'My God, everything is in such an appalling mess that if we don't get £200 million by Wednesday everything is going to collapse.' We don't think that's a good foundation for creative fund-raising."

Cambridge has also concluded that a general appeal on the Oxford model is not a very bright idea. "The government will say we're flush with money and start reducing our black grant," Mr Slesley suggested. "We think it will be better to raise money for specific projects like a new library, a business school and biotechnology institute."

Back at Oxford, Dr Drucker is incredulous. "Did they really say that? Well, Cambridge is a great institution, of course, and I was very impressed by Mr Squire. But if we went to our people with an appeal like that, they'd wonder what the hell it was about. They'd tell us to get our act together. It's Oxford we're going to campaign for, not some piffing project one day and another the next."

Later, Mr Slesley volunteered that Cambridge was not anxious to be seen following in Oxford's footsteps. "We don't want to be second, do we?"

It is hard to avoid the suspicion that a similar reluctance to be second has dogged Cambridge's attempts to put its administrative house in order. Since Oxford's Big Bang in 1966, Cambridge has held nine separate inquiries into its system of government, each no more than a little whimper. The signs are that the council will vote for a tenth on Monday.

Extracts from the diary of Chris Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, written during his recent fact-finding visit to Ethiopian famine areas

A diet of aid and dogma

THURSDAY

We arrive overnight on the Ethiopian Orthodox Christmas Day and take off straight away by Twin-Otter for the Italian-aided, expense-no-object, resettlement area at Tana-Beles. In Ethiopia and elsewhere, if resettlement is voluntary and properly planned it can be a useful and defensible. It may be a Spartan "MP, I fear. Resettlement and villagization — bringing people in from the country to live in regimented communities — have a central role in the Leninist approach to agriculture which I read about in that morning's *Ethiopia Herald*. It's the sort of paper that gives the latest Bulgarian handball results rather more prominence than they perhaps deserve.

But can this Leninism be the same as Mr Gorbachov's variety? I'm not sure that the Soviet leader is as popular in Ethiopia as in Washington. His deviationism has not gone unnoticed. Am I being kidded or is it really true that an Ethiopian party committee has been established to consider Gorbachov's errors?

Back in Addis Ababa, I meet representatives of the substantial aid community. The scale of the emergency this year is probably greater than in 1984-85. The drought has been worse; the crop failure in the north more comprehensive; the number of families affected larger. But the early warning system worked well last autumn. The international relief agencies and charities and the Ethiopian Relief and Rehabilitation Commission have acted impressively quickly. And the donor countries of the West have responded generously.

But the situation is on a knife-edge. Ethiopia has to survive the best part of a year, and as the months pass and the number of the hungry increases, crisis will constantly threaten to slide into catastrophe. More help will be needed. The greatest danger is that politics and security may obstruct the movement of food. We can get food to Ethiopia, guaranteeing delivery to Tigré, Eritrea, and Welo is much more difficult. To run a massive relief operation during a war is no cake-walk.

FRIDAY

I set off to explore the wilder shores of *perestroika* (restructuring) with government ministers.



They tell us about their new agricultural policy — more price incentives for farmers, freer marketing and distribution. It sounds an improvement; let's hope the small print and the implementation stand closer scrutiny. If these changes are genuine and can trigger the release of EEC and World Bank investment, so much the better. Gorbachov may have made a new convert after all.

SATURDAY

We are up before dawn to fly to Makele in the Ethiopian Highlands. We meet representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross there and fly on to Wukro to see one of their food distribution centres. Each day they

provide a food ration to last a month for 8,000 people. Today is the start of the operation and they are registering the villagers. Several of the families I talk to have walked for five or six hours over tough mountain terrain with babies and young children. They will have to carry back 15 kilos of wheat for each family member, plus beans and an edible oil ration.

While they give their names, and have their identity and family size confirmed by a village leader, the Red Cross measures height and the circumference of the upper arm. Save the Children Fund calculates height and weight. Present indications suggest that the children's health is, on the whole, no worse than it would be at this time in a normal year. That

would quickly change if the food distribution was disrupted, even for a short period.

Wukro is in that part of Tigré where fighting and security problems have closed the roads too often in recent weeks. The airfield is a valuable stop-gap, but no substitute for free movement by road.

We fly on to Massawa, the port which handles most of the food for Eritrea and Tigré and then to Asmara — a very Italian city — to learn more about transport problems and to see the airfield base. It takes about 12 minutes for gangs of running, singing men to load each Hercules. They earn good money for their hard work and are as a result the dudes of Asmara, emerging each evening for the local *paseo* dressed to the nines.

We fly back in a Hercules to Makele where we visit the site of the camp that featured so prominently in the horror stories of 1984-85. This is where Cardinal Hume and others wept and prayed. The Salegian Brothers in the town gave 30,000 winding sheets for the corpses from Makele camp. The area has now been replanted with 300,000 trees, and an artificial lake irrigates the orphanage garden where more than 500 survivors from the camp now have their home. We have to prevent the dirt into camps if we can. That's why regular food distribution is so important.

We stay the night with Brother Casari, a cheerful Venetian who came to Makele by way of Vietnam. He is an ebullient reminder that you don't have to be miserable to be a saint.

SUNDAY

With another dawn start on our last day, we take off for Koba, in Welo, south of Tigré, where the Save the Children fund has a feeding centre. The villagers wait quietly and patiently for the registration, medical checks and food. The fund, Oxfam and the Red Cross will distribute most of the 94,500 tonnes of food aid that Britain has pledged. As usual these organizations are run on the ground extremely competently by decent and sensible professionals.

In the tent where the young children are weighed I ask why so many of them have their hair cut into little tufts. "It's so that the angels can pick them up more easily and take them to heaven." Maybe the angels won't be busy this year. Maybe.

Electricity: put the consumer first

The electricity supply industry is judged by three criteria: price, quality and security of supply. The government has set great store by the introduction of competition into generation, but its final proposals will probably fall far short of those planned.

First, the government is firmly committed to the use of nuclear power, and something akin to the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) will be required to run it and support its maintenance, research and development.

Second, theories of competition may be inappropriate when applied to generation. The merit order system (whereby stations are brought on to meet demand in ascending order of production costs) minimizes day-to-day costs overall. But competition among owners of base load stations might lead to the price being set for all base load providers by the cost of the next most inefficient plant.

Competition is also meant to drive out the inefficient and the costly. Yet in generation, with plant lives of between 25 and 40 years and construction times of a decade, there will

always be inefficient plant which cannot be forced out of the system because it will be required to meet peak demand.

Furthermore, all electricity utilities work on a co-operative rather than a competitive model, meeting one another's emergencies, so maximizing security of supply.

Where competition will be introduced within the medium term is the procurement of new plant. The CEGB is not noted for successful building programmes and is widely accused of excessive gold-plating and unnecessarily high engineering excellence.

The transmission system has a vital role in ensuring fair access to large and small generators and for maintaining grid stability even in exceptional circumstances such as recent gales. There is no sensible reason for breaking it up, though a question mark remains over who will run it.

As to the distribution boards, the consumer will only ever have one cable and one meter and receive supplies from one distributor. To all intents and purposes, distribution is an

unbreakable monopoly, though it is still a moot point as to whether the existing 12 boards will be privatized as they are or six or fewer companies with more evenly spread customer load and financial performance.

Electricity is vital and over a vast range of applications has no plausible competitor whatever — computers, telecommunications, the London Underground, washing machines, TVs and the stuff of domestic ordinariness. Even where there may be a competitor, the cost of replacing existing equipment is virtually prohibitive.

For these reasons, the Energy Secretary has much to risk in pursuing the ideal of competition and much to gain if he liberalizes the industry from government interference while ensuring, through a strong regulatory and customer protection framework, that consumers of electricity can be sure of a cheap, safe, secure and reliable supply.

Jenny Kirkpatrick

The author is director of the Electricity Consumers Council.

Robert Kilroy-Silk

Come on, give us a fight

Roy Hattersley has to go, of that there can be no doubt. His resignation as Labour's deputy leader would clear the way for a good old-fashioned fight for the party's soul between John Prescott, the petulant aggressive Shadow energy secretary, and Brian Gould, the suave golden boy of the general election campaign.

Such a contest would provide several worthwhile gains. It would produce a deputy more relevant to the party's present mood and needs than the incumbent; the result would clearly signal the direction that the party as a whole wishes to take after a third humiliating election defeat; and it would rescue the parliamentary party from its current irresponsible slumber. That Hattersley no longer has a real role to perform few will deny. In fact many, not least among his friends, whisper that the best service he could render to the party would be to retire and write the two novels that he is apparently anxious to have published.

He is, after all, something of an embarrassment to Neil Kinnock. They have never really got on well together. They don't exactly cater for each other socially or even move in remotely similar circles, political or otherwise. Neither has ever had much regard for the abilities and talents of the other. Their relationship, never relaxed and easy, is probably getting worse as they inevitably, even if only unconsciously, blame each other for the growing disenchantment within the party and the unions with their style of leadership.

Without such discontent, Prescott could not even think of running. Hattersley should recognize this and open the path for an election. He must be aware that he represents little and no one in the modern party and that he would have great difficulty in getting the majority support of his parliamentary colleagues or of winning a contest were it not for Neil's support — whether open or, in the case of union delegations, by the use of strong-arm tactics in smoke-filled rooms — in order to preserve the status quo.

As Prescott's friends rightly complain, Hattersley has done little campaigning for the party since the election, demonstrates no faith or confidence in its future and perpetually conveys the impression that he would rather be somewhere else doing other things. He should go and do them. The way would then be open for a clear choice between Gould and Prescott. The fact that the party's deputy leadership isn't much of a job doesn't matter. What is important is that a contest for it would force Labour to re-examine its values and re-appraise its policies with a little more urgency than that being displayed by the lumbering policy review.

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Either way it would be the end of Labour as we have known it. That's not, but acceptable if the outcome served the interests of the majority while attending to the needs of the minority. But it won't happen because, as an American commentator said in another context, "The best won't run and the worst won't quit."

© Times Newspapers, 1988.
The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Michael Kinsley

Robin Hood of the right

Washington
Everyone's having a good chuckle over the Rev Pat Robertson's latest absurdity. In the Republican presidential debate last week, he confirmed his endorsement of a biblical-style "jubilee year" in which America's huge mountain of public and private debt would be cancelled. In fact, though, not so long ago we had precisely such a jubilee, spread over several years. And forces more powerful than Robertson are now advocating another.

The modern debt-cancellation jubilee goes by the name of inflation. In 1984 the real value of the federal government's debt was precisely what it had been in 1946, despite decades of deficit spending. The inflation of the late 1970s had wiped out every cent of post-war government borrowing. It had a similar pleasant effect on home mortgages and other private debt. More recently, we Americans have pulled the same nasty trick on the foreigners who were foolish enough to lend us hundreds of billions of dollars during the 1980s. As the only major debtor nation that can borrow in its own currency, we have let that currency decline by half against the yen and the mark, effectively cancelling many of those IOUs.

The return of inflation is just becoming noticeable in everyday life. A large coffee at the take-away next to my office went from 55c to 60c last week after five years of stability. The price of electronic goods, virtually all imported, is going up after years of decline. In New York Mayor Ed Koch is leading a noisy protest over a jump from \$6 to \$7 in the price of movie tickets, instituted by the Canadian company that seems to be taking over all of America's cinemas.

Unfortunately, few seem to be taking the danger of another severe bout of inflation seriously. On the right, the supply-side gurus who got us where we are today profess to believe in a sort of reverse alchemy, in which gold can be turned into stable prices without any unpleasant monetary or fiscal discipline. On the left, we are hearing the argument that inflation is in fact good. It goes like this: Wealth is highly concentrated. Creditors are rich; borrowers are poor. Inflation, by eroding debt, takes from the few and gives to the many, like Robin Hood.

The argument has a distinguished pedigree on the American left, including one of the most famous speeches in American politics — William Jennings Bryan's attack on the gold standard at the 1896 Democratic convention: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns, you shall not crucify mankind upon a cross of gold." Bryan's would-be successor is journalist William Greider, best known as the man who got David Stockman, the budget director, to say all those indiscreet things at the beginning of the Reagan administration. In his new book on the workings of the Federal Reserve Board, *Secrets of the Temple*, Greider writes: "A social philosopher, searching for a progressive theory of justice, might contemplate the underlying consequences of inflation and conclude that this system was a promising model of social equity."

Not really. This isn't 1896. In America, most financial wealth is held by institutions on behalf of ordinary people in the form of pension and life insurance funds. If unionized workers and others with market power keep up with inflation, poorer workers and those on welfare generally don't. Home owners may beat inflation, but the inflated price of houses is now leading to America's first recorded fall in home ownership. Inflation may be preferable to recession in the short run, but is disastrous for economic growth in the long run. It encourages consumption, borrowing and short-term profit-taking; discourages saving and long-term investment. Just coping with an unstable currency is a vast and costly distraction from productive work. Inflation also carries high political and spiritual costs, as Britons ought to remember even more vividly than Americans.

Materialist yuppies on both sides of the Atlantic grew up in a period when thrift was madness, greed was mere prudence, and buying, buying, buying was the best financial strategy. The general lack of social generosity stems from the time when each group had to kick and claw just to hold its own. In any event, redistributing wealth through inflation works only once in a generation.

It took inflation of between 10 and 15 per cent to erode debt in the 1970s. It will take inflation of double that or more to do the trick today. Maybe it will come to that. But nobody should pretend it will be painless, let alone progressive. The author is Editor of *New Republic*.



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LE MITTERRAND PERMANENT

American presidential elections have been happening on time every year for around 200 years. But the most remarkable thing about the other important presidential election this year — to the presidency of the French Fifth Republic — will not be whoever wins but that it is happening at all.

France has been politically stable long enough for the outside world to forget that, in the eye of history, the time has not been long at all. Leaving aside the claims which the more ostentatious conservatives make for the pre-1789 *ancien régime*, the Fifth Republic has been the best constitution France has ever had — perhaps the only really good one. Under it, it surpassed Britain in wealth and European influence. Mrs Thatcher is busy working on that. But she is not guaranteed a lasting recapture of British supremacy yet.

France was joining in the Western "affluent society" in the last years of the Fourth Republic, but was incapable of solving the Algerian question. The Fifth Republic not only preserved the affluence; it protected the country's prosperity from the kind of inflation which was constantly threatening it under the previous regime. The new republic also had the prestige to rid France, however ignominiously and deviously, of Algeria. In post-war Europe, the Fifth Republic is a success second only to the Federal German Republic.

Yet the constitution dates from only 1958. Many people forget how, comparatively recently, it was widely assumed, both in France and abroad, that the Fifth Republic would not survive the departure from office of its creator. After de Gaulle, it was confidently asserted, there would, of course, be a *déclat*.

It was widely assumed too that there was something illegitimate about a constitution which had come into being after, and partly as a result of, an army mutiny in Algeria. The constitution was ratified overwhelmingly by the electorate at a referendum. But there were people who denied that de Gaulle had saved French democracy.

It was claimed that French democracy was what he had subverted. One of the most self-consciously intellectual of French politicians wrote a pamphlet whose title summed up his case against the new constitution: *Le coup d'état permanent*. This spring the author is expected to be a presidential candidate under a constitution largely unchanged. He is President Mitterrand.

M. Mitterrand is also a living refutation of the next, widely-assumed claim about the Fifth Republic. It was said that "chaos" or "instability" would result from the constitution's most famous "flaw" or apparent anomaly. This was the possibility, latent since 1958, that — because President and National Assembly were elected at different times — the President might be from one party, and the National Assembly majority from another.

Since the 1986 National Assembly elections, the majority has been Gaullist and the President — elected in 1981 — has been a socialist. In 1986, M. Mitterrand had no choice but to invest as Prime Minister the Gaullist leader, M. Chirac — one of the men who will oppose him for the presidency this year. But there has been no instability.

M. Mitterrand was only a species of socialist. He did not proclaim himself any kind of socialist until late in his career. He soon abandoned much of the socialism on which he was elected in 1981. He did so because it was electorally unpopular — an unpopularity which cost him the National Assembly in 1986. He is, if anything, an old-fashioned French radical.

Now, in old age, there is nothing particularly unpopular he wants to do. He has survived long enough to appear a serene embodiment of France. Meanwhile, M. Chirac has had to deal with the details of government. He appears the embodiment of another France — the unhelpful hotel manager of Anglo-Saxon mythology. He is the one who has become unpopular. Far from being humiliated by impotent *cohabitation*, M. Mitterrand's fortunes have been revived by it.

The sheer length of a French President's term of office — and the opportunities this gives for voter discontent and boredom — may still ensure that M. Chirac wins. No Fifth Republic President has so far been re-elected. De Gaulle was elected President by the mass electorate only once, in 1965. His first election was by a small electoral college in 1958. The term should certainly be reduced to five years.

Both President Mitterrand and M. Chirac may yet be beaten by the one other plausible candidate, the economic liberal, M. Raymond Barre. But that a Mitterrand victory can be discussed at all is further proof of the much-decried constitution's ability to save Frenchmen, including French Presidents, from the consequences of past error.

THE LONELY HEATH

Hampstead Heath is more than an open space upon which a former leader of the Labour Party became famous for walking a dog named after a former Tory leader. It is more than the perennial battleground on which the local ladies and gentlemen fight attempts by local councils and developers to provide new homes. It belongs to all Londoners who live within jogging and journeying distance and who find there a place where they can fill their lungs and breathe.

As yet, no one is threatening Hampstead Heath in any direct way. No one is proposing to put up gates and levy a charge for entry. The park-keepers still pick up litter and cart away dead wood. But the Heath is not the happy place it ought to be.

Nearly two years after the abolition of the Greater London Council, which managed it, it remains in an administrative limbo. Soon there is a risk that the lack of long-term management will begin to tell on its terrain and its trees.

The other day the London Residuary Body — which took over the assets of the GLC in order to liquidate them or pass them on — announced that it was to conduct its unimpeachable exercise in "consultation" before making any recommendation about the Heath's future to the Environment Secretary. This means that many more months will pass before the final decision is taken.

It would be easy to berate the chairman of the Residuary Body, Sir Tag Taylor, for not making up his mind sooner. Even before the GLC expired, reputable public bodies were queuing up with offers to manage the Heath. But the fault cannot be laid entirely at his door. The cause of the Heath offers a field-day to lobbyists of every persuasion — and Hampstead nurtures some of the most vocal lobbyists in the land.

Delay in determining who should manage the Heath has, however, made the decision

more difficult than it might have been. The financial situation of two prime suitors — the City of London Corporation and the London Borough of Camden — has deteriorated markedly.

The City — in the running because it manages nearby Highgate Woods — faces a sharp fall in its income when the non-domestic rate is nationalized. Camden has become a byword for financial mismanagement. Other solutions, like the establishment of a trust to manage the Heath, would require the LRB to stump up large sums in endowment and running costs.

Delay has also enabled the various campaigners to become more deeply entrenched in their positions. Neither Camden nor the other London boroughs which adjoin the Heath are keen on the City oligarchs taking over. Some local opinion argues that the City has no great reputation as an estate manager so why should they trust their beloved coppers to it?

At the same time few people, including many residents of the borough itself, want Camden town hall involved, given the spending and management record of its Labour councillors. The neighbouring boroughs of Barnet and Haringey (Tory and left-wing Labour respectively) want no role unless there is a scheme for spreading costs across all London (which is what the GLC rate used to do).

The chairman of the LRB is appointed by the Environment Secretary, and is supposed to supply him with advice. The delay in deciding the future custodianship of Hampstead Heath says little either for the LRB's efficiency or for its political sense. Although the LRB is dead, its ghost will walk for as long as the LRB fails to dispose properly of the remains. Until then, the concern of Mr Michael Foot and Dizzy, of Heathmen and women (and all their dogs) will be fully justified.

FOURTH LEADER

There is going to be the most appalling row in Zimbabwe, and readers contemplating a visit would be well advised to postpone it, at any rate if they were planning to fly to Harare by the national airline. For Air Zimbabwe has just promulgated an edict, by the terms of which the airline's flight hostesses have been curbed told to lose weight within six months or lose their jobs.

Ungallant, do you call it? Then you had better, before reading on, fetch down the Thesaurus and draw up a list of considerably stronger terms. For the airline's decree does not "mince" words. Our old friend A. Spokesman, on secondment to Air Zimbabwe, has asserted that some of the lady cabin attendants "are so big that their thighs knock against the passengers as they are moving between the aisles", and just in case anybody was in any doubt about what he was implying, he went on to say, "We have these ugly big amazons pretending to be air hostesses".

There is nothing in the Air Zimbabwe statement to indicate whether the ladies were hired at their present girth or whether they have, so to speak, grown into the job. Anyway, it will make little difference to the impending uproar, which is likely to be loud, bitter and prolonged.

Diligent research has not yet revealed whether Zimbabwe has anything like our Equal Opportunities Commission, nor, if it

has, whether any such dreadfully sexist conduct falls within its remit. But in any case it is enough to make most people see Lambeth Council in a much more kindly light; you do not have to stretch the definition of sexual discrimination far to bring Air Zimbabwe within it.

For note that there is no word of complaint by the airline about the size of the male cabin attendants. Is it really credible that not one of them is overweight, that they are all as slim as greyhounds and embarrassed at the amazonian shape of their female colleagues? Even if they are, is there not something missing from this story? What about the customers? There is no suggestion that they are complaining, and it is not difficult to imagine that many passengers, particularly nervous ones, might actually welcome the reassurance of a stout and motherly lady bumping down the aisle to tell them that the air turbulence they are experiencing is nothing to be alarmed about.

Hands off those hips, gentlemen. Did not the great Julius Caesar deplore the "lean and hungry look"? It will be time to institute it on Air Zimbabwe planes when the passengers are heard to murmur "Thigh no more, ladies", or when the extra weight of the hostesses makes take-off impossible. Until then, "Excess baggage" must mean only what it has always meant hitherto.

Privatisation of nature reserves

From Mr C. I. Rose

Sir, Proposals by Mr Nicholas Ridley of the Department of the Environment to privatise the national nature reserves run by the Nature Conservancy Council (report, January 11) could reverse some of the considerable progress made in protecting the most important wildlife habitats and countryside features from pressures such as agricultural and forestry development.

Unless adequate legal and financial safeguards were provided, any sell-off of Britain's ecological heritage could rapidly lead to its impoverishment. Many NNRs exist as statutory nature reserve agreements, financed by RMG. Under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act, sites of special scientific interest (the top tiers of which are made NNRs) are protected from land-use change by paying "compensation" to owners and occupiers, either annually or on a once-off basis.

Studies commissioned by the Government and by the independent British Association of Nature Conservationists both suggest this will require as much as £42 million a year over the coming decades. The high cost of protecting nature reflects the money that can be made from forestry development through tax avoidance and EEC support to farmers.

Private conservation groups, such as the Royal Society for Nature Conservation and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, simply do not have the funds to buy out or manage the national estate of Britain's wild heritage. It should not be considered unless Mr Ridley is able to finance a truly massive endowment fund: perhaps by abandoning further motorway construction?

Yours faithfully,
C. I. ROSE,
Canterbury Park,
Richmond, Surrey.

In self-defence

From Mr David Holliday

Sir, Some time ago, a gentleman carrying a swordstick was attacked by a number of individuals while travelling by London Underground. He used the swordstick to defend himself and was subsequently prosecuted and fined for possessing an "offensive weapon". That the weapon was used defensively appears to have escaped the notice of all concerned.

More recently, a young lady, similarly set upon, used as a result. She was carrying no weapon, offensive or otherwise. Perhaps innocent travellers should now accept the risk of being either fined or murdered?

Still more recently, a minicab driver, put in fear by an unruly mob mulling about his office, took a chairing with him in his cab, to defend himself should it be necessary. He, also, was fined.

It is the prime responsibility of the police and the judiciary to ensure that her Majesty's subjects may go about their lawful affairs without fear of injury to their persons or possessions. If the police and judiciary are incapable of this, it becomes their

punish innocent citizens who take measures for their own defence. Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOLLIDAY,
67 Hady Crescent,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

Forms of address

From Sir Honour P. H. Layton
Sir, Viscount Hampden (January 1) is not alone in having difficulties with his style and title. When circuit judges were inaugurated as such, the *London Gazette* for August 1, 1969, announced that by royal warrant any holder of that office should be "known and addressed by the style and title of 'his Honour' prefixed to the word 'judge' before his name".

On retirement a circuit judge drops the word "judge" (except unofficially and in common parlance) and is officially addressed as (for instance) "his Honour P. H. Layton". Variations caused by this difficulty are numerous and can be easily conceived, but I was delighted recently to receive a begging letter addressed to "Mr His Layton".

Yours faithfully,
PAUL LAYTON,
70A Leopold Road, SW19.

Rolling in the aisles

From Mrs Joyce Hall

Sir, Unusual though the newly restored barrel organ of St Peter's, West Tytherley may be (report, January 9) it is not unique. In All Saints' church in our little parish of Sutton, Bedfordshire, we have a "Sacred Barrel Organ" manufactured in 1920 by T. C. Bates and Son of 6 Ludgate Hill, which has been maintained in good working order until the present day. It has three barrels with 10 tones on each and the five stops offer total variation as well.

As the original lists of the hymn tunes pinned inside the lid indicate that this organ was the 2,917th one to be made by the company, this could be the beginning of a lengthy correspondence. Yours faithfully,
JOYCE HALL (Churchwarden),
Brook House, Sutton,
Sandy, Bedfordshire.

Aid to Ethiopia

From the Ambassador of Ethiopia
Sir, I refer to your editorial entitled "Message to Mengistu" (December 31).

At his press conference on December 30, Ethiopia's envoy, Comrade Kassa Kebede, at no time accused the British Government of withholding relief assistance. Whilst grateful for the humanitarian assistance rendered to Ethiopia by the people and Government of Britain, Ambassador Kassa Kebede referred to Britain's lack of participation in the long-term development efforts of Ethiopia, and urged Britain to grant development aid. This statement of fact should not have been misconstrued as an accusation.

Any humanitarian assistance extended to Ethiopia, unless otherwise specified, at no time comes under the virtual control or management of the Ethiopian Government or its agent, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC).

The RRC co-ordinates the 50 voluntary organisations (non-governmental organisations) who distribute 85 per cent of the assistance. Under the terms of reference, the UN and EEC scrutinise their work and audit the balance as the need arises. In questions of irregularities, mismanagement and diversion of assistance, the RRC remains above suspicion.

According to our record, UK pledges for 1987 in food assistance

were 54,000 tonnes at a cost of £9.4 million which would be channelled through Oxfam and Save the Children Fund. This fact is well known to Ambassador Kassa Kebede. However, regarding the distribution of food assistance, he simply wanted to draw attention to the fact that the existing extensive structure, logistical capacity and cumulative years of experience of the RRC are not being fully utilised by the donor community, including the United Kingdom.

The editorial's author tells us that the famine appeal responded to by the British public through Band Aid amounts to £85 million. According to our information, the figure is £50 million. The fund, although raised on behalf of Ethiopia, was not specifically meant to be expended on Ethiopia alone. Other countries in the Sahel are among the beneficiaries.

The double-talk on Ethiopia's policy of agriculture, defence, etc., is a very clever attempt to divert attention from the humanitarian assistance we are aware is a temporary relief but may not cure recurrent problems associated with underdevelopment. Development assistance, in tandem with relief assistance, would create the opportunity for the people to help themselves rather than allow them to succumb to perpetual dependency. Ethiopia, as a developing country, would need both.

Indeed, the EEC and the World Bank have taken a positive step in

Social workers in short supply

From Professor Robert Harris

Sir, You report (January 7) Cleveland County Council's inability to recruit qualified social workers. In consequence, unqualified workers have been over-promoted temporarily, though its director of social services this morning assured Radio 4 listeners that they would not be dealing with "complex child abuse cases".

The problem with that, of course, is that successive enquiries show that difficulties arise in the identification as well as management of such cases. Professionals are needed to spot them in the first place.

But Cleveland's problems are not unique, and reflect the chronic

Civil Service status

From Mr Clifford C. Welch

Sir, David Walker's article (December 29) on Sir Robert Armstrong dealt, *inter alia*, with the problem of Civil Service morale and the loss of high-flyers to commerce and industry "because the old public service ethos... sits uneasily with the competitive spirit of private industry".

It may be argued that the problem is even wider; commerce and the City, just as much as the Civil Service and commerce, have found it difficult to understand one another.

Perhaps we could draw from the experience of France, whose recovery from the disastrous governments of pre and immediately post-war, allied to a cumbersome and bureaucratic public service, has been remarkable.

A major factor has been the positive programme of guiding the very best graduates along a career path that has involved spells, sometimes repeated, in the Civil Service and industry, and in banking and insurance.

The result has been a flowering of top management that sees itself as part of a national team, each member having had a personal insight into the total economy, unlike the watertight compartments that characterise the United Kingdom.

Whilst the financial rewards are not uniform across the board in France, the status and power that this system confers on the high-flying Civil Servant, plus opportunities for key jobs in Government-controlled companies, has kept the process moving to the apparent advantage of the French economy. The friendships created in this cross-fertilisation process are an important supportive element. Yours faithfully,
C. WELCH,
Orchard House, Coles Oak Lane,
Dedham, Colchester, Essex.

Messina earthquake

From Lady Nicholson

Sir, Your account of the earthquake of Messina in your "On this day" column of January 11 prompts me to add a few details.

It was my mother's jewels which were found and returned by British sailors: she was visiting her parents over Christmas, 1908, with her baby son when the earthquake occurred in the night of December 28. She was partly buried and when dug out her first thought was for the child in a room next door.

There was nothing left but a hole in the wall and in despair she seized her jewels and threw them out onto the heap of rubble. The child and the nurse were killed. I still possess a string of pearls which were returned and also a large teddy bear, a Christmas gift to the child.

My mother was evacuated on a British naval vessel; the Captain told her his hair had turned completely white overnight.

Incidentally, I was told that Russian sailors had also given invaluable help. Yours sincerely,
V. V. NICHOLSON,
Messina Manor,
Isle of Wight.

the direction of extending development assistance. Meanwhile, the Ethiopian Government is in the process of taking necessary measures.

Pronouncement of prejudicial opinion and the systematic selection of the Ethiopian people as a target for persecution will not serve in justifying complex matters of drought and famine, particularly when facts are besieged with hearsay and sensational rumours.

Yours faithfully,
TEFERRA HAILE-SELASSIE,
Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia,
17 Prince's Gate, SW7.

Credit where due

From Mrs Mary Coughlan

Sir, John Grigg (article, January 2) writes, "I can think of only one book dedicated to an animal". Here are two more: Colonel Angus Buchanan's dedication in his book on the Sahara, 50 years' ago,

To Feri n'Gashi
Only a camel,
But steel-trued
And great of heart.

And Mrs Frances Simpson's dedication in her book, *Cats for Pleasure and Profit*.

To the many kind friends,
Known and unknown,
That I have made in
Pussodom.

Yours faithfully,
MARY COUGHLAN,
Abbots Litten Cottage,
Long Street, Sherborne, Dorset.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 16 1858

The instigator of this assassination plot was Felice Orsini, an Italian revolutionary, who saw in Napoleon III the chief obstacle to Italian independence. He was executed two months later.

THE TIMES OFFICE,
Saturday Morning.

EXPRESS FROM PARIS.

THE ATTEMPT
TO ASSASSINATE THE
EMPEROR.

The following is the letter of our Paris correspondent, dated yesterday (Friday), 6 p.m.:-

... About 9 o'clock the Imperial carriage arrived, preceded by another with the attendants, and followed by an ordinary escort of Lanciers. The Emperor, Empress and General Roguet, the Aide-de-Camp on duty, occupied the same carriage. On arriving at the theatre, near which some groups of spectators were standing, a loud explosion was heard, followed at the interval of a few seconds by another, and again a third — the loudest of all. A rush of the people on the Boulevards took place down the rue Lepelletier anxious to know what was the matter. It was known that the Emperor had been fired at, and rumours flew about of something still more disastrous. So far as the Emperor was personally concerned, however, all apprehension was soon removed, and an immense and enthusiastic crowd told those who were at a distance that his Majesty was unhurt. In order to tranquillise the people, the Emperor on quitting his carriage, presented himself at the door and again on the balcony. ...

The assassins had provided themselves with hollow projectiles of the most deadly description, and contrived to fling them on the ground under the carriage, where they instantly exploded, and caused destruction among the bystanders. One of the carriage horses was killed on the spot, the other wounded; the carriage itself was broken to pieces; General Roguet who sat in front was wounded slightly, it is said, and two footmen who stood behind, dangerously. A bullet or fragment of a shell passed through the Emperor's hat, but did not touch him. The Empress was also untouched. ...

[The Emperor's] first act was to send for medical assistance for the wounded; and these are, I fear, very many. Several Lanciers of the escort who were nearest to the carriage were seriously hurt, one or two are said to be killed. The number of persons more or less hurt is probably not less than 60. Several of these, however, are very lightly so; and four or five have either succumbed already or are not expected to live. ...

I have already alluded to the reception of their Majesties in the house. During the performances, which were longer than usual... they were cheered again and again in the warmest manner; and when they rose to depart, which they did not till the last moment, the audience rose, and the house rang to the very roof with acclamations. ...

About 2 o'clock (the following day) the Emperor and Empress left the Tuilleries in an open carriage and four with a single outrider, and an attendant in plain clothes riding on the right side. They were followed by another open carriage with two or three of the household — but not a single soldier as an escort... They both looked as calm and as well as I have ever seen them. The Empress wore a very thin veil over her bonnet. ...

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SATURDAY NEXT 21 JANUARY at 8 p.m.

TCHAIKOVSKY NIGHT

Marche Slave Suite from Swan Lake

Piano Concerto No. 1, Suite from The Nutcracker

Mortier Edition

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

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SATURDAY 30 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m.

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Excerpts from great Broadway shows

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TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

THE AMAZING MAZEPPA UKRAINIAN COSSACKS

PAUL TARRS director

The music, spirit and dance of the Ukraine are vividly brought to life

in this beautiful national costumes and electrifying dancing

An evening not to be missed

WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

RUSSIAN EVENING

Prokofiev: March from The Love of Three Oranges

Tchaikovsky: Suite from Romeo and Juliet

Mussorgsky: The Great Gate of Kiev from Pictures at an Exhibition

Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No. 2

In 2 minor

Chopin: Nocturne, Op. 9 No. 3

Overture with canonic and more effects

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Conductor: BRAMWELL TOVEY

SUNDAY 14 FEBRUARY at 7.30 p.m.

VALENTINE'S DAY LOVE CLASSICS

Tchaikovsky: WALTZ FROM THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

Liszt: SUITE FROM ROMEO AND JULIET

Tchaikovsky: PIANO CONCERTO IN A MINOR

Tchaikovsky: CAPRICCIO ITALIANO

J. S. Bach: BOSSA FROM THE SOUTH WOODS

BOLERO

LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Conductor: BARRY WOODS

TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY at 7.45 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Grieg: PIANO CONCERTO No. 1

Tchaikovsky: PIANO CONCERTO No. 2

Dvorak: SYMPHONY No. 9 (NEW WORLD)

Conductor: NICHOLAS LEITCH

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Tchaikovsky: PIANO CONCERTO No. 2

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SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

High Alps, hot air, cool heads



"It is probably the only way to travel," David Levin says. The man from Colorado has crossed lands in five continents with his eyes on the heavens as though following his star. "But it is truly the only way to arrive. You come unannounced to an unknown dot on your map; everyone comes running from their homes to wave; total strangers wade through waist-deep snow to bring you a flask of coffee, a bottle of their best wine, while the wife goes off to make a cake. You go anywhere by train or boat or car and get greeted like that?"

All doubtless true. Other singularities he might also have added: for such journeys, even bearded non-smokers start out dangerously under-prepared unless they have at least four boxes of Swan Vests, and several tins of shaving foam.

You pick up fascinating tips like that in the company of competition hot-air balloonists, men whose understanding of vertigo rivals a well's grasp of calculus. Splendid chaps, all supposedly more dreamers who want nothing more than to escape earthly strain to drift around up there like thinking thisledown.

Except that the hottest of hot-air pilots, once they pitch their armorial pear-drop tents in the sky, form a sports circus as competitive, as riven with old rivalries and unsettled scores, as Grand Prix motor racing. A dozen of such have been gathered in the almost ridiculously pretty Austrian village of St Gilgen this week, for the 10th BP Alpine Trophy.

Hot-air balloons dicing amid icy peaks is an obvious lunacy: trusting to nature above terrain so liable to change that the only "Met office" the locals commonly trust is the gnomish village crier, who sniffs the wind coming over his woodshed and mutters "sturm im morgen" before slamming his door on all this wintersport nonsense. But then uncertainty to the point of treachery is the whole point.

Hot-air ballooning is a travel modus with a history but little past. In 1782, the Montgolfier brothers flew six miles suspended from an en-

**Top balloonists
gathered this
week for a
dangerous test
of their skills.
Brian James
joined them**

TRAVEL WITH



velope full of air heated by burning straw bales. This newly-invented sport then virtually ceased to exist, killed by the efficient but expensive opposition of gas-filled ballooning. Revival came only on the coat-tails of newly-developed propane gas in 1968.

In the last 20 years, more than 350 British men and women have learned the skills to drift soundlessly across Cotswold fields at weekly balloon "meets"; 10 times as many Americans are licensed for the freedom of the air over Kansas farms, Californian groves.



But although 10 Americans a year fry themselves on power-lines, and British balloonists have been fired upon by farmers fearful of aborted cows, for a few with the "right stuff" such minimal risks needed expansion.

Hence the Alps. The first thing one observes, when looking down into one of those pretty little village-filled valleys, is that just across the ridge is not always another pretty little village-filled valley. Often, there is nothing but a plateau of tortured rockfaces and conifer woods, reached by no road or path, where a man,

put down, would not survive the first freezing night.

And that fluffy little fringe of cloud along the ridge is a 45-knot wind, which curls like an invisible "breaker" on the downslope, and can bring a balloon hurtling down at 2,000 foot a second. Which is why men like the British competition director Les Purfield become very prickly when checking the must-carry list of each balloon's contents, including Primus stoves and three day's rations for all on board (often one, sometimes two, rarely three). They have not lost a man yet, but a downed Hungarian pilot, who spent a full 24 hours before being found and airlifted out, has noticeably failed to enter since.

You will be wondering about Swan Vests. David Cater, who runs a school for balloonists at Prescott, Gloucestershire, explains: "Balloons are kept aloft by gusts of air heated by 15-foot flames from the jets. The gas is ignited by a pilot light. At altitude, pilot lights can starve of oxygen and splutter out. Then you reach for a match."

"Problem is, I am a pipe smoker. Tend to stick dead matches back in the box. One day, not very high but very far from any flat field, I found that what with my pipe and the pilot I had gone through three boxes; now I go up bristling with spares, each with red-top matches sticking out the top, ready to grab."

And the shaving foam? "Balloons can't steer. Your only control is by ascending or descending to find a strata of air which is going roughly where you want to be carried. If we chuck foam over the side, it is so light that we can watch it gleaming in the sunlight, all the way down, and spot any helpful wind. Often we tear down after it, and pass it going up."

Even with the most modern radar-based technology - and all the foam in the world - great pilots do get it wrong. Somewhere off in the ragged peaks that surround St Gilgen, a giant yellow canopy of the old Zannussi balloon lies draped across the treetops where it came to rest eight years ago.

It is a sight to sadden all those that follow. And also a tale to give considerable pause when told to us at 10,000 foot aloft in the current Zannussi balloon, on a not dissimilar course above Lake Wolfgang. Treeless clearings seemed rarer than a few seconds before.

But Gottfried Zach, the pilot, was to put down our basket with the elegant aplomb of a Ritz waiter placing a warmed brandy balloon to hand. Yet only an hour later, another balloonist battered his basket on landing hard enough to shatter crash-helmets; just an Alpine wind demonstrating its power to snatch the 1,000 yards of garish nylon from the most skilled hands, and use it to gift-wrap a church.

The Alpine Trophy used to be an endurance event: how far you could get was all that mattered. But the aces started coming down only feet from Austria's tricky borders with Eastern bloc neighbours, so this year the event is decided by success in a series of daily



Wild, wide blue yonder: a hot-air balloon sails peacefully across the skies above the mountain tops - but danger may lurk in the Alps.

set "tasks" calling for accuracy in navigation and balloon-handling. The top prize is £1,000, but only the first five expect to cover their expenses.

They are a motley bunch, balloonists: an actor, a dentist, a surgeon, and an industrialist, all either able to afford the £12,000-£16,000 that a craft costs (usually a sponsor can be found to pay \$4,000 to have his logo on the fabric), or content to have dropped out from some unspecified race to take their chances living off their balloons... building them, flying them, teaching other pilots.

More than half of the aces are men familiar with other forms of flying, such as airline and helicopter pilots, and men who learned first to operate gliders, hang-gliders or microlites. What drew them into hot-air flight they answer, almost in chorus, is the absence of the mechanical clatter and chatter of today's crowded airways. If they choose, they can drift alone with no sound save the occasional dragon's-

breath roar of the burner. But you have to cross-examine to get that sort of answer. Together, they talk of barometers and wind shear, and of the sport's jokier moments. How one of their number took his son aloft on Christmas Eve, and hovering above a forest, cut his tree from the loftiest pine.



The large, silent shapes are seen in parts of the world even a Phineas Fogg might have deemed too distant. These men have tales of launching in desert dunes and landings in the minus 30° temperatures of the Arctic Circle. Some are off soon to cross Australia as a bicentennial stunt.

Yet the picturesque cluster of cuckoo-clock homes of St Gilgen (previously famous in its 600 years only for having

given birth to Mozart's mother) is famed above all, Levin, a world champion, explains: "Because it is the most scenic. And also the most tricky. There is a league of international pilots who get stale drifting over farmlands. Not here; nowhere are you more aware of the Balloonists Code of Survival: 'Better be down here wishing you were up, than being up there wishing you were down'."

Or as Tom Donnelly, a Yorkshireman who for a living paints airships or coaxes those inflatable adverts like giant beer bottles and tyres across the world's skies, says: "I come to St Gilgen because there is nowhere else where you can skid over a peak at 40mph and be aware, not of how easy it would be to die, but how magnificent it is to be up there, alive."

"I once floated for seven hours and 45 minutes to Graz, and did not stop murmuring 'wow' to myself, all the way."

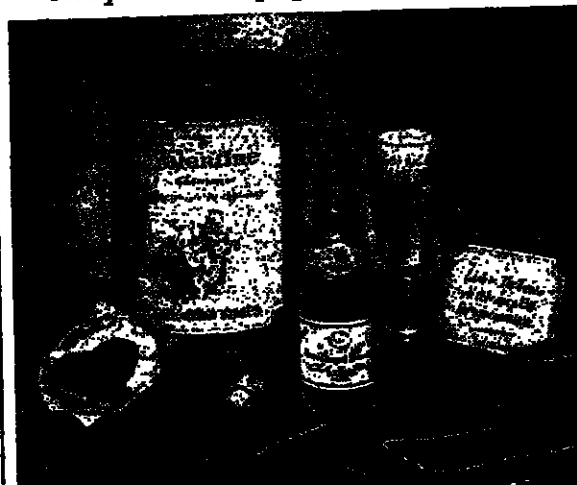
What other way to travel, indeed.

**Next Saturday:
The Times
Property Guide
in colour**

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Alpine ballooning takes place at St Gilgen every January: at the end of this month, another balloon week begins in Chateau d'Oax, Switzerland. National tourist offices may also be able to give information about other hot-air balloon "festas": inquires at the beginning of each winter. Casual helpers are often made welcome - and rewarded with a flight.

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Trapped and terrified - at 2,000 foot

Playing with even the most beautiful balloons can harm your health. Katerina Trifonov, a British-qualified pilot crewing for her father at the championships, described how, a month ago, she took two friends for a flight near Vienna. All went perfectly - until 40 foot from the ground on the descent.

Then a sudden down-draught slammed her balloon into the ground. Katerina, aged 17, and one passenger were hurled clear. The second passenger, 21-year-old Monica Kramer, hit her head and fell dazed into the bottom of the basket. When she regained her feet, she was at 2,000 foot. Above solid cloud. And alone.

In falling, she had turned on the burner, sending the balloon shooting skywards. Now, suddenly flying solo on her first flight, she remembered only that the way to deflate the balloon was to pull the parachute rip-cord to open the vent at the top of the envelope. But the cord had fallen across the flame on the ascent and was burnt through and useless -



Thrown out: Katerina Trifonov, pilot of the runaway

which was fortunate, because a panicky tug by a novice would have brought the balloon crashing to earth.

What Monica did was to switch the burners off and wait for the balloon to sink to what awaited beneath the clouds. She descended into a field free

of obstructions, where an appalled posse of retrievers, led by Katerina, waited to snatch her from the basket and corral the deflating envelope. Behind a fortified fence and watch-towers a few yards away, notoriously intolerant Czech frontier guards were getting

Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL

Keep a weather eye . . .

SKI REPORT

Although there has been some snow in the last two weeks, the pistes throughout the Alps are still pretty threadbare, especially at low levels. There is the prospect of better snow, however, so it is particularly important to know when there are forecasts of any fine spells.

Reliable local forecasts are often hard to come by. Be wary of what the locals say . . . they are inclined to tell you what you want to hear. More useful are the forecasts that are posted in the tourist office and sometimes broadcast in English on local radio.

If the weather is in a really changeable mood, it pays to keep an eye on the sky. Advancing high clouds and the formation of lens-shaped clouds on the highest peaks are a sure sign that sunny conditions are unlikely to last long. Thinning clouds after rain fall may mean better conditions at high level.

Bill Burroughs

SKI EVENTS

AUSTRIA

Badgastein Ladies' World Cup downhill and slalom. 23-24.

SWITZERLAND

Wengen: Men's World Cup downhill and Super-G. 23-24. The Lauberhorn. St Moritz: World Cup Nordic jumping. 20. Cresta: The Morsdon Cup (traditional toboggans). 27. Engelberg: World Cup Nordic jumping. 22. Gstaad: World Cup Nordic jumping. 24. Verbier: Men's FIS slalom and giant slalom. 20-21.

FRANCE

Avoriaz: International film festival. 16-26. Le Puy: French bob championships. 22-24. Les Menuires: Paris Championships men's and ladies' slalom, Super-G and downhill. 21-24. Courchevel 1989: The Australian Cup. 20. Ski show: "Snow and Fire". 21. Meribel: International on-snow show jumping. 22-24.

ITALY

Cervinia: The Volvo ski show. 23-24.

Peter Hankey

Into the Red Centre

Concluding his travels in Australia, Michael Watkins journeys into the blazing heartland of the continent

The beer counter at the Todd Tavern in Alice Springs used to be five feet high and four feet across, to prevent customers grabbing the barmaids. This suggests that either the riggers, jackeroos — cattlemen by other names — were sex maniacs, or that women were in short supply. There is a third choice: that both conclusions are correct, and that they are symptomatic of life in an outback, frontier town.

The Alice is a long way from anywhere, bang in the middle of the Red Centre — the Dead Heart, as it is also known — 1,000 miles from a comparable settlement. By air you approach over the Simpson Desert, a bowl of red dust from one horizon to the next. "Folks," announced the pilot, "you gotta be tougher than me if you're staying in Alice. It's 115°F in the shade down there. I've got the latest fatalities to cheer you up — five from crocodiles, 15 climbing Ayers Rock." He was right, it was hot enough to coddle your eyeballs.

Joe Harman, in Nevil Shute's book, called it a "bonza" town; yet the melancholy truth is that Alice doesn't live here any more, not the Alice Joe knew. Coolabah trees still line the streets, the Flying Doctor Service still operates, but today's there's a shopping mall, a Sheraton . . . and it is my opinion that there are so many anthropologists preparing theses on Aborigines that the Aborigines are pouring into town to make a study of the anthropologists.

I stayed just outside Alice with Rod and Debbie Steiner. Rod runs Dreamtime Tours, trailing tourists into the bush to demonstrate how "blackfellas" fed before "whitefellas" opened tupperware. With his Aboriginal friends he shows how they found bush tucker, cooking grubs. They teach the rudiments of boomerang throwing and explain traditions behind their "ooroborees", dances that bring the land to life. For, in the beginning was the Dreamtime when the earth was flat and dressed in darkness, when the Dreamtime heroes, both in human and animal form, created their epic struggles, establishing laws to which they still adhere.

The more I listened to whitefellas talk, the less I understood; it seemed to me that there were as many Aboriginal stories as there were Aborigines. "They've even got cars," said someone. "They don't go walkabout, they go wheelabout. They're so stupid that when they run out of petrol they think the car's broken and they set fire to it." "If they're that stupid," said someone else, "how did they survive this climate for 40,000 years?" My cuttings from the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported the formation, in Katherine, of SPONGE (Society for the Prevention of Niggers Getting Everything).

It was at the Steinerts' that I met Gil and Verlie Bowman, who said why didn't I come stay with them: they had a cattle station, "the fourth house north of Alice." Four houses and heaven knows how long after, we turned into a driveway. "Only 20 miles now," said Verlie.

Four thousand head of cattle, mostly Herefords, are supported by their 1,100 square miles of property.



Blazing saddles: Aborigine stockmen on a round-up in the heat and dust of one of the cattle stations of the Northern Territories

My house is clean enough to be healthy, and dirty enough to be happy

Their nearest neighbour was 36 miles away; their fingers drank at the Ti-Tree pub 50 miles off. They were entering their fourth summer of drought and they'd had about enough. They and two boys, Neil, 12, at boarding school; Alan, nine, being educated at home by the School of the Air. The homestead was a no-frills bungalow with a sign on the mosquito-netted porch: "My house is clean enough to be healthy and dirty enough to be happy".

I was happy at Pine Hill Station, picking up the fig ends of outback life and gossip. Neither had been to charm school, they didn't use table-napkins or euphemisms. They showed me their land, rough, dry, covered with mulga scrub, beautiful. But times aren't good. You'd think people with a farm the size of an English county would be flush enough; but Verlie wants to get in on "this tourist thing, get folks to staying the old homestead". Gil caught my eye and, wisely, kept his trap shut.

Is it possible that this monolith is the biggest joke in the world?

Back in Alice I asked around for the best pub. "Try the Old Alice Inn," someone advised. Then I met Pat and Norma Brennan who asked me to stay with them. Everyone wanted me to stay. Pat, who'd married Norma when there were 20 men to each woman in Alice Springs, was bush-happy, really miserable unless pulling down a steer, shearing sheep or scavenging for bits of wood to build a fire. He joked me half to death in the MacDonnell Ranges out towards Haasts Bluff and Carmichael Creek and when we put up at the Glen Helen pub, who should be at the bar but his mates, Wallaby Waudby and Audrey who'd driven about 120 miles to a beer.

I'd got one more call. Everyone seems to think that Ayers Rock is a suburb of Alice Springs; in fact it's about an hour's flight, settling you down at Yulara. It was here, in 1980, that baby Azaria Chamberlain was taken by a dingo from her parents' tent and never seen again. To the Aborigines, Uluru — Ayers Rock — is a place of deep spiritual significance from the Dreamtime, significantly evil, too, associated with the hatred between the Mala tribe and

What I needed, perhaps, was the reassurance of Aussie irreverence of the sort than sponsors the Alice Springs annual regatta, Henley-on-Todd as it is called. The River Todd is, of course, dry and competing boats are bottomless. The whole event is regarded as a better joke than the America's Cup. I mean, the world is groaning with jowler looking, more accessible lumps of rock than Ayers Rock, despite its plausible packaging. Is it possible that as well as being the biggest monolith, it is also the biggest joke on earth? Which no one has twigged? Until now.

Seen from a distance, in daylight, Uluru looks like a dun-coloured cow-pat; only when you draw closer does its power snare you. Tour buses

paw at its base day long, commuting back and forth to the Yulara hotel complex; the average visitor-stay being one night. In three days I stood before it at dawn and at sunset, watching it burn with an appalling energy; I flew over it in a four-seater plane; I touched its coarse-grained ele-

phant hide. I did everything but climb it. The truth was that I was chicken; I'd read about the bad spirits. I had also read of the Chamberlain case that Aboriginal elders saw it as a vengeful act of Kurmpangu on the white man for trespassing upon sacred ground.

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TRAVEL NOTES

Internal flights: Australian Airlines and Ansett. Bookable through British Airways (01-897 4000), whose London-Perth excursion fares are £1000 return low season, first class £4,196 return. Rod Steiner's Dreamtime Tours: Box 2058, Alice Springs, Northern Territory 5750. Bowmans cattle station: Pine Hill Station, via Alice Springs, NT 5751. Pat Brennan bush trips: Box 295, Alice Springs. The Sheraton at Alice and at Yulara charge about £66 a double, no meals included. Ayers Rock tours: R Kelly, Box 69, Yulara, NT 5751. Northern Territory expeditions: The Australian Experience, 3rd Floor, 418 St Kilda Road Melbourne, Victoria 3004. Further information: Australia Tourist Commission, 20 Savile Row, London W1X 1AE, (01-434 4371).

To the aid of drivers

TRAVEL NEWS

Learn how to say *slow down* or *stop* in the local language. This is one of the World Health Organization's (WHO) hints to travellers on how to avoid catching AIDS. The advice is about careful driving to avoid accidents, and thus blood transfusions, but it could be useful in social situations.

The latest version of the WHO pamphlet, *AIDS Information For Travellers*, includes revised advice on the sterilization of injection equipment. Re-usable needles and syringes should be cleaned then boiled for 20 minutes. This supercedes earlier guidance on chemical sterilization.

Fear of AIDS should not prevent travel to any destination the organization says.

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THE TIMES COOK

Plain tails from the stewpot

Usually I can hardly wait to get back into my kitchen to try out all the new ideas I've picked up during my travels. This time was an exception. All we wanted this time after our American trip was light fish dishes, pasta and plain green salads to help us get over the jet lag, and then soups and casseroles to warm us up. An empty refrigerator, fruit bowl and vegetable basket are, in any case, probably not the best inspiration for getting started on some Californian delicacies. Next week, perhaps.

My shopping expedition was carefully planned. First to the butcher for veal bones and a whole oxtail, chopped into pieces. Stock would be made from the bones and the smallest, boniest segments of oxtail. While the stock was simmering, I made a casserole with the rest of the oxtail.

It remains one of the best bargains to be had at the butchers at less than £1 a pound. A whole oxtail weighs about 3 lb/1.35kg prepared weight. For four people, you need most of it as it has a large proportion of bone to meat. For two people, I still stew it all, using some in a casserole the next day and the rest in a soup later in the week with the addition of root vegetables or potatoes and stock.

I always cook this type of stew or casserole the day before required. Not only do you have a better flavour because all the ingredients have had longer to blend and marry, but almost all of the fat can be removed once it has cooled, turning it into a relatively low fat dish. Meat on the bone, such as oxtail or shin beef, should be cooked very slowly so that the tissues break down and the gelatine is released to produce a tender stew with a rich sticky sauce. Extra rich stickiness can be achieved by adding a chopped pig's trotter.

The recipe I have given is a simple one that can be adapted in many ways to suit what you have available. You might like to use small onions, a little mustard and some beer for a robust flavour or olives, a twist of orange zest, garlic and dry



Frances Bissell arrives home jet-lagged from California to the winter, finds fridge and vegetable basket bare, and decides to grab an ox by the tail when she visits the butcher on the lookout for a bargain

white wine for a Mediterranean flavour.

This month sees the appearance of forced rhubarb, a truly native delicacy that comes to us from Yorkshire and Humberside. I welcome its fresh, tart qualities in my kitchen after months of imported fruit. Try serving it in lightly poached batons with fish instead of serving a large wedge of lemon. Or consider using it with one of the richer meats, such as pork or duck. Last winter in Germany, I came across cold rhubarb soup served as a palate-cleanser between courses instead of a sorbet. It was delicious. It would probably also go well at the beginning of a meal in the manner of the Scandinavian fruit soups, but I would be just as happy to serve it as a final course after a rich, meaty stew.

I have to admit to a little experimenting in my kitchen this week. Wherever we ate in San Francisco and New York, My husband, Tom, always chose the black bean soup. From Jeremiah Tower's lively and bustling Stars restaurant to the elegant 21 Club in New York, I kept hearing a plaintive "we don't

get that at home." We do now. And the recipe which follows has met with approval.

Black bean soup
Serves 4 to 6
1 lb/230g black kidney beans
1 medium onion
1 tablespoon sunflower or olive oil
1 level tablespoon ground cumin
1 level tablespoon paprika
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper or chili powder
3 cloves or 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1 tablespoon tomato purée
1 pint/570mls stock or water
Salt to taste
Garnish
4 tablespoons good dry or medium sherry, optional
Chopped parsley
4 thin slices lemon
4 teaspoons soured cream or thick yogurt

Soak the beans in cold water overnight. Next day drain and rinse them and place in a saucepan covered by at least two inches water. Bring slowly to the boil, cover and barely simmer for two to two-and-a-half hours until the beans are tender (you can also cook them in a low oven). Meanwhile, peel and finely chop the onion, and fry it in the oil in a heavy saucepan until beginning to brown. Add the cumin, paprika, cayenne or chili and cloves and cook for two to three minutes. Stir in the tomato purée and cook until it thickens and darkens as the water evaporates from it. Pour on half the stock or water, bring to the boil, cover and simmer for 30 minutes or so until the onions are soft.

Allow the cooked beans to cool slightly in their liquid before making a purée of them in food processor or blender. It is best to do this in two batches unless you have a large capacity machine. Add the bean purée to the onion and spice mixture, together with the rest of the stock or water. Stir until thoroughly mixed, bring to the boil and add salt to

your taste. If the consistency is too thick for you, gradually add a little more water or stock and appropriate seasoning until the taste and consistency are as you want them.

There seems to be several ways of serving the soup, with or without sherry, with or without a thin slice of hard-boiled egg, with or without a thin slice of lemon, in any combination. I like to serve the soup very hot, pouring it practically boiling into earthenware dishes containing a splash of sherry (or even better, rum, the heat of the soup evaporating most of the alcohol and leaving the spirit flavour behind) and adding a very thin slice of lemon, some finely chopped parsley and perhaps a spoonful of soured cream.

Oxtail stew
Serves 4
3lbs/1.35kg oxtail in pieces
1 medium onion
7oz/200g tinned tomatoes
1/2 pint/140mls water, stock, beer or good red wine

Spring of thyme or 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme or any other herb you like
Salt and pepper to taste

Remove as much fat as possible from the oxtail, and fry it in a heavy well-seasoned or non-stick pan until browned all over. Peel and slice the onion and fry until light brown. Rub the tomatoes through a sieve on top of the meat and onion, add the liquid and herbs, bring to the boil, cover, turn the heat right down, and let it barely simmer for about two hours or until the meat is tender. Remove from the heat, allow to cool in the pan and refrigerate until next day. About half an hour before you want to serve it, remove from the refrigerator. The fat will have solidified on top and every scrap can be removed. Gently reheat the stew, and simmer it for 15 minutes or so. Season to taste and garnish with some greenery. This is good served with braised or steamed celery hearts and mashed potatoes or with tarragon and broad egg noodles. We also like it with flagolet, haricots or cannellini beans, pre-soaked and cooked as described in the previous recipe.

Rhubarb soup
Serves 4
1 1/2 lbs/675g rhubarb
1/2 pint/280mls water
1/2 vanilla pod
1 tablespoon sugar to begin with, then more according to taste

Trim the rhubarb top and bottom, but do not peel it. Cut into 4cm/1 1/2 inch chunks, place in a pan with the water, vanilla pod and 1 tablespoon sugar. Cover with a lid and stew the rhubarb very gently until soft. Remove the vanilla pod and put to one side. Strain the rhubarb and liquid through scalded muslin into a jug or basin. Sweeten a little more, but bear in mind that the finished soup should be refreshing to the palate and thus still quite sharp. Scrape a little of the vanilla seed into the liquid and chill thoroughly before serving.

EATING OUT

The French without the frisson

Visiting two Paris-style restaurants, Jonathan Meades searches in vain for the true flavour of the Left Bank

I am not certain that a restaurant called La Rive Gauche or one called The Left Bank argues well. After all, the area they celebrate is a leading site of institutionalized bohemianism, chi-chi, boutique, dreary flamours and terrific rip-off: the other side of the Seine is infinitely more interesting - but no one in London is going to open a restaurant and call it Marguerite or Bories Chaumont or Barbes Rochechouart. Those names are largely mute to an English audience whereas La Rive Gauche, The Left Bank... well, they're universal signals of informality, youthfulness, rebellion and other such marketable qualities. Odd then, maybe, that you don't get any of those flavours at La Rive Gauche in Waterloo - but then you don't get much of anything. I'm not talking about the cooking but about the atmosphere or colour or *mise-en-scène*. This may, of course, have been because the night I went the place was almost empty. But it may be

the other way round, it may be that it's the place's very ordinariness which prompts its emptiness. There's nothing seriously off-putting about it, but the combination of chrome and wicker chairs, pastel prints, bald up-lighting, silk flowers and non-stop Radio 2 music is not perhaps the most alluring that one has ever witnessed.

What it sets out to do is fairly modest and it achieves it well: this is not intended as *faux* Paris. The cooking is of two genres: there's the quasi-rustic bistro stuff and there's the artier, more "modern" stuff.

Of the first we ate a sauté of chicken, bacon and Roquefort and some fine lamb cutlets in a nicely gauged peppercorn sauce. Of the latter we had a kidney-size portion of a layered terrine of smoked salmon and cream with a marginally too tart sauce, and a very delicious grilled red mullet in an impeccable butter sauce.



voured with rosemary. The main courses were impressive, the starters not, nor the vegetables for that matter, which included a severely undercooked potato galette. A sweet of white and dark chocolate was given an orange custard sauce, the cheeses were given no chance, having been dragged from the fridge. With a bottle of Châteaufort-Pape, one aperitif and two digestifs the cost was £72.

The Left Bank costs two thirds of that rather rich total. It acknowledges Paris *Gem* in more than name - throughout the evening I was there a series of types of pleasant but unremarkable chanson were played. In all else, apart from

its intermittently excellent cooking, it is English. It is on a site in West Brompton that has been occupied previously by such restaurants as, in the '60s, Nick's Diner and more recently by Martin's. The ghosts of restaurants past strike me as a potential millstone, but The Left Bank seems to be coping well.

The wallpaper is pink and beige, it is hung with 18th century portraits and 19th century animal paintings and sports some chunks of art nouveau; the tables and chairs are at odds with this decorative programme - they are cheapish repro, stained dark brown and the tables don't have cloths. The English staff

are youngish, keen, unusually francophile and seem to know what they're about. The cook, a Breton called Roger Houart, certainly knows what he's about and the menu he's devised is not much like that of anywhere else. It is very meaty and promises a directness of execution which is fulfilled. His cooking is by no means crude but it is unquestionably concerned with feeding the punter - portions are large, and flavours are pretty emphatic without being caricatures of themselves. Again, sweetbreads are served in a dark gravy which hasn't suffered reduction into elasticity. That was a delightful dish and so was a warm salad of large duck livers with chicory, the usual fancy lettuce and grated hazelnuts.

The idea of goose jugged, *à la civet*, is an appealing one; the actuality though was slightly disappointing. The meat might have been, say, stewing steak. Our one fish dish, a copious pile of marinated salmon with *crème fraîche*, was splendid. A *marquise au chocolat* was an impostor pretending to be a nob, a nought place was much sounder. We drank, from an enterprising list, a Beaune which faded dramatically throughout the course of the meal. The bill was £50 for two, which given the standard of the cooking and the congeniality of the place was reasonable - this is one to watch.

La Rive Gauche, 61 The Cut, London SE1 (028 8845). 12-2 and 6-11 Mon to Sat. Closed Sat lunch and all Sunday. The Left Bank, 88 Elfield Road, London SW10 (052 0970). 12-3 and 7-11 every day except Saturday lunch.

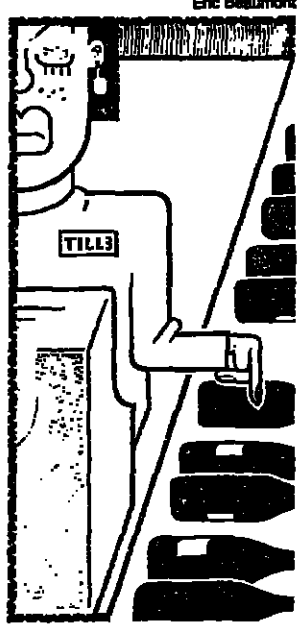
DRINK

Vintage checkouts

To stock or not to stock fine wine, what to call it and where to put it, must be every supermarket buyer's trickiest decisions. Given that supermarket sales must now account for well over a third of all the wine bottles bought in Britain, the temptation to grab yet another slice of the traditional wine trade is strong.

But unlike wine warehouses, whose every outlet counts as a depot and selling unit, supermarket wine must face a weekly worry: how much fine vintage wine should they send out to each branch, how rapidly should they re-order, and are profit margins increasing as a result? Fine wine is a much slower seller than cheap own-label wines and, for its quality to be preserved, needs to be laid down horizontally in space-consuming racks. Customers of wine warehouses and wine merchants also know that their precious, expensive vintage bottles have been stored horizontally, away from light, in their original boxes in cool surroundings, until bought. No such guarantee comes with supermarket bottles in bright, hot shops.

Canary supermarket men have rapidly realized, however, the important marketing advantages of stocking fine wine; considerable cachet is gleaned by lining up *cuvée* classé claret, from first growth châteaux, alongside infinitely less desirable and infinitely cheaper non-vintage Minervois or Corbières. No wonder Sainsbury's stock '80 Les Forts de Latour (£13.95) or '81



Pavillon Rouge du Château Margaux (£14.25). Tesco sell the '83 for £13.99.

The latest supermarket recruit to succumb to the heady, high price delights of the fine wine world is Marks & Spencer, whose 10-wine Connoisseur's Collection was launched in a trio of key stores last September. Since then this pricey, but worthwhile, fine vintage wine collection - ranging from £9.99 a bottle up to an impressive £18.50 for a splendid '84 Pailigny-Montrachet - has been making progress, according to M & S, and has now appeared in four more leading stores. Encouragingly, the company intends to expand the range.

Sainsbury's launched its then 29-strong Vintage Selection range in 1983 and Waitrose had been selling a wide range of fine wine in racks for years, without bothering to give it a name or to put a seal on the label. Sainsbury's Vintage Selection now boasts 50 different wines which, judging from my recent tasting, are a great improvement on the original 29. Ninety Sainsbury's stores carry the full range, with a further 97 stores carrying 26 Vintage Selection wines.

Good warming January buys from Sainsbury's VS range include a glorious new Portuguese red, the '78 Romeira Garrastrea (£3.45), whose full purple colour and wonderful spicy, cinnamon fruit would make a perfect partner for winter stews and casseroles. As would their '83 Châteaufort-Pape from Domaine André Brunel (£6.75), with its appealing, rich, savoury-spic Syrah influenced style. The star buys in Marks & Spencer's Connoisseur's Collection include a glorious '80 Chambolle Musigny from Chanson (£9.99), whose pale, garnet-orange colour, fragrant cinnamon scent plus a light, savoury almost Martini-like palate all add up to a classic glass of red Burgundy. Equally impressive is M & S's '77 Haut-Batilly (£11), whose delicious rich, firm cedary fruit shows that excellent wines can still be made in difficult Bordeaux vineyards.

Jane MacQuitty

Quiz winners

The questions that foxed you, and how we are sharing out the champagne...

Of the several hundred entries which had arrived by January 11, only three had correctly answered all the questions. They were: Mrs M Brookes, from Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire; Mr J Prentice, from Ruislip, Middlesex; and Miss A McRae, from Surbiton, Surrey. A further two entrants had all but one question correct and 30 had all but two correct. The questions that proved to be their undoing were numbers 9 and 15. Competitors wrongly believed that the member of the Royal Family who sired a human cygnet was Princess Michael of Kent whereas it was the Duke of York; and they were similarly convinced that Jean-Marie Le Pen stated that "the SS were as much victims as the Jews were". The correct answer was Sir Alfred Sherman.

The six cases of Most & Chandon Dry Imperial Rosé champagne (worth £226 each) will therefore be divided among the five leading entries



in the following way. Each of the five will receive a case of champagne and the sixth case will be divided among the three outright winners who will, therefore, receive 16 bottles in all.

Here are the correct answers:
1: b. 2: d. 3: c. 4: e. 5: b. 6: a. 7: b. 8: c. 9: a. 10: d. 11: c. 12: c. 13: a. 14: d. 15: a. 16: a. 17: d. 18: b. 19: a. 20: a. 21: c. 22: d. 23: d. 24: c. 25: a. 26: c. 27: c. 28: a. 29: c. 30: c. 31: a. 32: a. 33: b. 34: a. 35: c. 36: d. 37: c. 38: d. 39: d. 40: a. 41: c. 42: c. 43: c. 44: c. 45: b.

Picture questions.
A: 4. B: 3. C: 4. D: 3. E: 1. F: 1. G: 1. H: 1.

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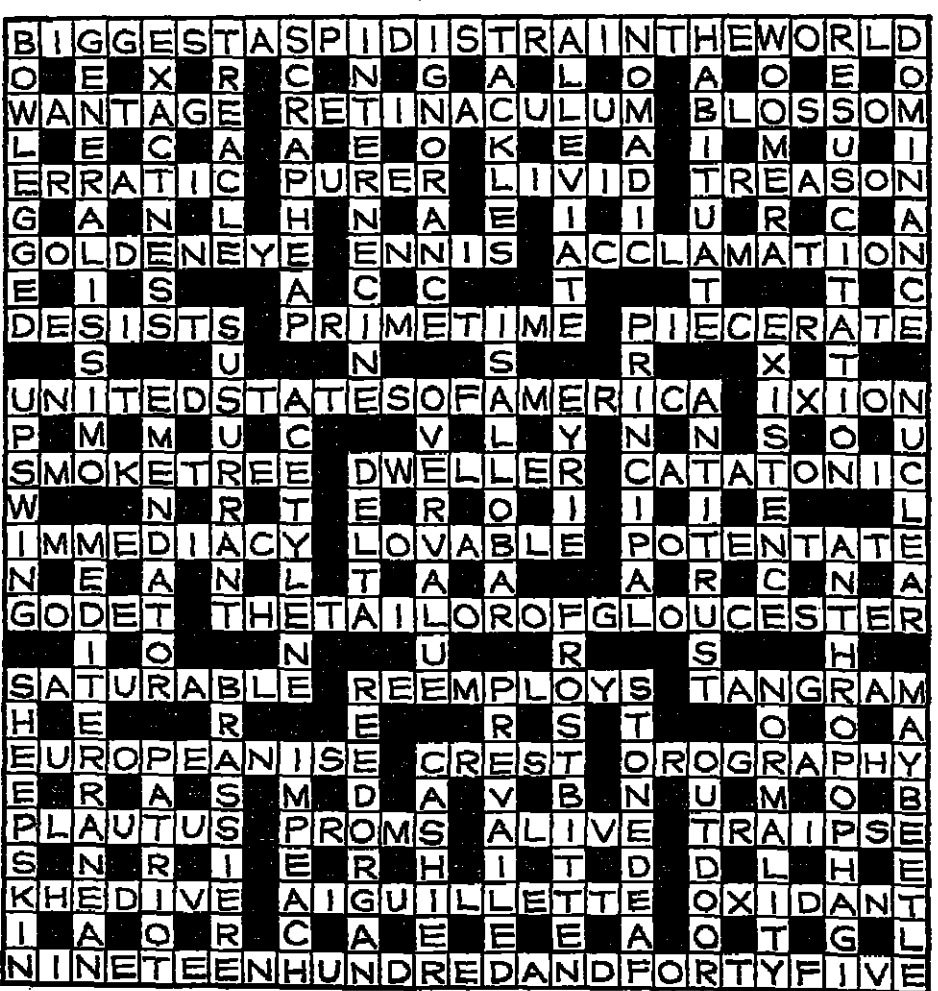
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Christmas Jumbo solution

The five winners of The Times Christmas Jumbo Crossword Competition, who each receive £50, are: Dr A.G. Beckett, of Huxon Close, north-west London; Mrs E.K. Ager, of Woodcock Road, Norwich, Norfolk; R.M. Drew, of Talbot Road, Bristol; Gwyneth Pitt, of Hollin Mount, Leeds, West Yorkshire; and J. Sim MacGregor, Strathclyde Road, Motherwell, Lanarkshire.



THE ARTS

Serious comics

Hey, kids! Here's a nasty problem for the form swot. How can you possibly make a programme about Desperate Dan, Minnie the Minx, Lord Snooty, Dennis the Menace and the rest which is anything but hilariously funny? Answer: Give it to *Arena* (BBC2), and let them tell *The Dandy-Beano Story* with dead-pan, deadening seriousness.

Perhaps they were following the Gilbertian injunction to treat a thoroughly serious subject in a thoroughly serious manner. Perhaps they were trying to reflect the pragmatic, dour, Scots wisdom which lies behind 50 years of these two comics, products of 'Thirties fantasy, Forties escapism and Fifties austerity.

But the programme observed little and explained nothing. The nice young men in charge of the comics sat in line on a sofa like Gilbert and George. Their employees introduced themselves with bald lines to camera and we never saw them in the process of

TELEVISION

creation. Old employees were wheeled out (including the Chairman of the IBA, once editor of *Dandy* for six months). Slightly famous people like Flink and Law of *Spitting Image*, and A.N. Wilson (sitting giggling with his cat on his front doorstep) were allowed to say why the comics' rebellious, anti-adults, anti-establishment stance appealed to them.

Is this kind of elliptical BBC2 documentary-making going to be standard practice in the Youtub age? Come on, teacher, we want a few facts! How do they draw the comics? Let's see them working out a story! What do educationalists and children's writers think of them? (Reald Dahl might have had a thing or two to say). How many do they sell? Who reads them now? How have they remained unaffected by television?

We were left with Wilson's heroic verdict that Desperate Dan stands in the tradition of Samson and Beowulf. Gosh!

William Holmes

Queen of the Bali Ha'i

Sheridan Morley talks to Bertice Reading, who plays Bloody Mary in the West End revival of *South Pacific*



Bertice Reading: "At this rate I'm probably going to die as Bloody Mary... she really is mine at last"

When *South Pacific* opens at the Prince of Wales theatre on Wednesday after a week of previews, for what will be its first professional London revival in all of 37 years, Bloody Mary will be played by Bertice Reading: it is hard to think of more formidably apposite casting.

"The thing about Bloody Mary," says Miss Reading, "is that she's a singing Mother Courage, all right as a friend but deadly as an enemy. When they told me a year ago that I was up for this production I went back to the original Michener short story, *For Dolly*, and what you find there is a real earth mother belching her way through insults.

"In the film they made her fatally ladylike, and although the Rodgers-Hammerstein office are still very wary of any change, I have at least tried to suggest that there's something very creepy about a lady who can conjure whole islands like Bali Ha'i out of nowhere."

Now that she has finally been cast in a role she was surely born to play, Miss Reading reckons with faint alarm that she may be doing it for ever. "We've been taking nearly a quarter of a million pounds a week on the road in Manchester and Plymouth, mainly I think because it's been so long since people got to see a really strong revival of one of the all-time classic musicals."

"There's something very romantic about *South Pacific*: man meets girl, gives her a box of chocolates and three months later they kiss. None of that 'Your place or mine?' rubbish, and when you hear an orchestra of 30 striking up that overture you know you're home."

"Ronnie Lee, our producer, is already talking about Tokyo and Australia, so at this rate I'm probably going to die as Bloody Mary. She really is mine at last."

It is easy to forget, at this distance, that *South Pacific* when it was first seen in the late 1940s represented a certain breakthrough in American musicals. One of its least-known songs, the viridically anti-racist "You Have To Be Carefully Taught", caused considerable unrest in the deep South where, as Miss Reading recalls, "us niggers were still being strung from trees".

She herself has not led the most sheltered of lives even over here:

"When I first came off the boat as a band singer with Lionel Hampton in the early 1950s, blacks were still so rare on Regent Street that people stared at me with their mouths open in astonishment. Whenever I tried to rent a flat porters would tell me they were all full, so finally my agent had to do it for me, and even then

they charged double because I was black and a nightclub singer into the bargain. Then all the Arabs started to arrive and prices went through the roof, and nobody cared what colour you were after that."

Now in her middle fifties with a shock of white hair, the survivor of three marriages (to a Swiss im-

pressario, a Belgian airline executive and an English aristocrat), Miss Reading was the only child of a hospital therapist in Philadelphia, from where she won the talent contest that got her into the Hampton orchestra.

"My opening week with them we did the first Eisenhower inaugura-

tion and Hampton seemed to like the way I sang, so I stayed with him for years," she says. "Mother was livid about my going into something as risky as showbusiness but Father, who had held his tongue all through their marriage, suddenly spoke up and said that if she tried to stop me he would leave home too, so that more or less settled that."

When she started with Hampton, black music was still preserved in a ghetto of its own. "You had black record labels and white record labels and although Lena Horne and Nat Cole had just begun the crossover, people like Sarah Vaughan and I had a lot more trouble. In London I left the Hampton orchestra and went into *The Jazz Train*, which was the first black musical since *Porgy*, and from there Tony Richardson took me to the Royal Court where I did *Member of the Wedding* and a lot of other plays which taught me how to act."

"If you can make people understand the point of a song in less than three minutes, it's not so hard to make them understand the point of a script in more than two hours."

Then came *Valmouth*, for which Sandy Wilson wrote her the role of Mrs Yaj, and by that time she had also taken up residence in Paris and Geneva to solve various immigration problems.

"I still love Paris, especially since last year they invited me for three weeks and then three months to star at the *Police Berge* singing on a tightrope. I was really 10 years too old for it, and I never did look especially good in plumes, but *Le Figaro* had a banner headline reading 'The black pearl has arrived', and not just on the showbusiness page but at the very front. Over here I mainly get offers of big black Mamas, though what I really want is a television chat show — England is still years behind America in what they allow black women to do on the screen. But I never want to be typecast, not even as Bloody Mary. I never even wanted to be in *Porgy and Bess* unless they'd let me play Porgy: *Bess* is such a wimp. Most of my spare time now I spend writing my autobiography, and trying to remember where the hell I've been all these years."

I only hope she decides to call it *A Little Light Reading*.

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A rare talent

CONCERT

PLG/Young Artists Purcell Room

The Park Lane Group's Young Artists and Twentieth Century Music series yielded a rare surprise last night, in the form of a genuinely young artist, the 19-year-old cellist Robert Max, whose talents are of the highest quality.

It is not only his sure and mellow sound that discloses his class, but also his platform manner. He strikes on to the stage and proceeds to play while seeming scarcely to move either his body or the instrument.

Evidently his teachers have instilled, or perhaps simply maintained, in him a physical harmony that enables him to direct all his energy towards realizing the music.

What is more, he realizes it superbly. He gave a performance of Bridge's Cello Sonata of mature breadth, ably encouraged by his pianist, Rebecca Holt, while neither George Crumb's solo Sonata, an early piece worlds removed from the sounds of *Ancient Voices of Children*, nor Simon Rachman's enigmatically entitled *Cronache d'Oro* of *Caillie* challenged him.

His concert was shared with a group of four clarinetists called No Strings Attached, a name more appealing than their instrumental combination. The best of their offering was Elliott Carter's three-movement Canon suite.

Otherwise, Alfred Uhl's Divertimento inhabited that well-populated region of honest workaday music, while Nicholas Hays's equally functional quartet, here receiving its premiere, simply did not know when to stop.

Once more, the early evening concert presented a group of thoroughbred professionals, this time the 13 strikingly youthful string players of Parnassus. In their hands, Rousset's Sinfonietta bustled with energy.

Stephen Pettitt

Open-minded, but introverted

DEBUT

Roxanne Wruble, according to her biography, is a widely experienced and, as far as repertoire is concerned, refreshingly open-minded, American pianist. How disappointing, then, to have to report on her introverted and dull playing in her London debut recital.

She began with Beethoven's Sonata in B flat, Op 22, which requires a mellowness of tone and a feeling for graceful shapes which she simply lacked. There was inadequate contrast of dynamic, while she seemed loth to use the vast resonance of the instrument to its full capabilities.

Stephen Pettitt

Tolstoy with a Czech accent

DANCE

SWRB/Prague Ballet Sadler's Wells

This programme at Sadler's Wells included, besides three works by the resident ballet company, an unprecedented guest appearance by three dancers and four musicians from Czechoslovakia, presenting a work from the repertoire of the Prague Chamber Ballet.

This is *Kreutzer Sonata*, performed to Janáček's first string quartet. It is played on a platform at the side of the stage by the Kocian Quartet, a widely travelled ensemble making its British debut. The sympathetic insight shown for a compatriot's music fully justifies the quartet's presence.

Janáček's inspiration was the passion and anguish of the characters in Tolstoy's novel *The Kreutzer Sonata*, and Pavel Smok's choreography presents the relationships among those characters in a semi-abstract form. There is a woman, seen first with an older man whose possessive love for her expressed itself in a bear-like roughness. The other man who appears as his rival seems similarly no great catch: burly and domineering. Vladimir Kolubek and Lad-



Anguish: Katerina Frankova with Vladimir Kolubek

islav Rajn, who play the men, both look older and rougher than is usual for ballet dancers, but they move with absolute authority through complex patterns which, expressive rather than virtuosic, are full of detail, never lack interest and rise to a considerable emotional and kinetic climax during which in turn the various characters leap at each other in desire or antagonism.

Katerina Frankova-Dedkova as the woman achieves the subtle effect of allowing us to draw conclusions about the character's superiority to either of her lovers while unsentimentally showing her in the subservient attitude she adopts towards them both.

Smok seems, on the evidence of this keenly observed, highly organized work, to have used the time since we last saw his work in London, nearly 20 years ago, to sharpen his skills considerably.

The *Kreutzer Sonata* looks as good as it does, partly because of the familiarity of its cast with his intentions, but his style is so different from anything in SWRB's repertoire, and so much more expressive than anything by our young choreographers, that it could well be worth commissioning a production from him.

The evening also saw the premiere of a new decor by Nadine Baylis (more than a little reminiscent of Ballet Rambert's repertoire 20 years ago) accompanied by dances by Graham Lustig. I put it that way because any ballet in which the most momentous events are four of the characters going off-stage and returning in different costumes has something wrong with it.

With the help of Baylis's vision of limbo and Alfred Shnitke's concerto for piano (Stephen Lade the able soloist) and string orchestra, Lustig builds *The Edge of Silence* to a certain atmosphere, but his symbolism of dead souls in the antechamber to oblivion or rebirth lacks cogency or detail except in the colour-coded costumes, and the movement only momentarily achieves the drama of his best earlier attempts.

Michael Corder's *Gloriana*, enjoying its first London performance, still seems, as at its Birmingham premiere, to attempt either too much or too little in its mixture of Britten's music, courtly dances of the period, the story of Elizabeth and Essex and the death's head symbolism of Philip Prowse's designs. Joseph Cipolla's piratical elegance as Essex gives the ballet a decided lift.

The best of the evening from the home team was David Bintley's *Allegri Diversi*, which perfectly matches the gaiety, freshness and invention of two short, youthful scores by Rossini.

John Percival

A species worth saving?

ROCK

Magma Bloomsbury Theatre

The World Wildlife Fund may be encouraged by the sighting of a species thought to be extinct. The French strain of the post-hippy experimentalist was a rare visitor to these shores even during the Seventies, when bands like Pierre Moerlen's Gong and Christian Vander's Magma were the avant-garde exponents of an eccentric variety of "progressive" jazz-rock. But now the personal interest (and money) of the snooker star

Steve Davis has coaxed Magma back to this country for a brief residency.

There was a late start due to "technical difficulties". Then, for 15 minutes, the audience contemplated a stage full of unmanned equipment while a primordial thunderstorm, punctuated by the ominous, erratic clanging of a church bell, raged over the PA.

The musicians appeared, 12 in all, and launched into a cacophonous, twiddly introduction that seemed endless. Indeed, much of the performance was marked by pieces that were little more than two-chord motifs stretched interminably behind shifting rhythmic patterns and overlaid with wailing vocal "solos"

by the shaggy Christian Vander and his former wife, Stella.

The presentation, however, was a bizarre anachronism. During a livelier, more complex piece called "Zess", which was distinguished by a heroically inspired bass solo, a robed figure with a huge alien insect head appeared. Having delivered a discourse about the end of the world from an ash-decorated lectern, the creature, known apparently as Krenka Korkman, disappeared in a puff of smoke. Your reviewer left almost as quickly, reminiscing about a time when audiences were a deal more impressionable than they are today.

David Sinclair

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BRIDGE

A fluke result?

Before the European Championships in Brighton, few believed that the British team would qualify for the Bermuda Bowl, let alone reach the final and make the Americans fight every inch of the way. Was it a fluke? That is a question most commentators are too polite to ask. As a member of the team, I feel I may offer my opinion.

In recent years Britain, bedeviled by selection problems, had fallen to middle-of-the-league status. As the composition of the team was constantly changing, this should surprise no-one. Britain might possess six world class players; it certainly doesn't possess 20, the number that have been deployed over the last seven years.

But that doesn't explain why nearly all the members of the present team have played for Great Britain on several occasions without achieving a comparable result.

It has been apparent for some years that Forrester is an exceptionally talented individual. In Raymond Brock he has found the perfect foil for his buccannery style. Before Brighton, Kirby and Armstrong's detractors argued that, despite their undoubted supremacy in domestic events, their bidding lacked the repose to succeed at European Championship level. It proved an exaggerated estimate, which nevertheless contained a germ of truth.

But Kirby and Armstrong are young, and to my mind their game has matured considerably. Today they seem at ease against strong opposition, while remaining totally destructive against the weaker teams.

Now that this quartet, virtually invincible in this country, has demonstrated that it can exert a similar dominance in international events, it is logical that the selectors should rely on the same team for the Olympiad in Venice.

Kirby's fine play earned a swing on this hand.

Bermuda Bowl.
Great Britain v Pakistan
East-West game.
Dealer South.

♠ K 9 8 7 4 3
♥ A 8 5 4
♦ A 10 9 8 7 6 5
♣ A 10 9 8 7 6 5

West led a heart to East's ♠K. Kirby ruffed the heart continuation and played a spade to dummy's ♠K, and then a spade to his ♠Q and West's ♠A.

West erred by cashing the ♠A, and compounded the error by continuing with a second club to the ♠J, ♠Q and ♠K. Kirby played some trumps, leading to this end position.

On the ♠7 West discarded his club. North shed a diamond, and East was obliged to part with the ♠K. But now the ♠10 crushed West. He had to keep the ♠9, so he was forced to let go a diamond. Kirby, who had a complete count of the hand, was able to cash two rounds of diamonds, confident that the Queen of diamonds would drop.

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

The sensation of this year's Foreign and Colonial Tournament at Hastings was the brilliant performance by 23 year old Susan Arkell in the Challengers' group. Susan achieved a tremendous series of victories in the last few rounds of the event and finally took 3rd prize ahead of two British Grandmasters, Glenn Flear and Jim Plaskett. Even more meritorious was her achievement of the International Master norm, usually a male dominated preserve. In fact, Susan is the first British woman player to have notched up a man's IM result. She requires a similar success in the future, and the title will be hers.

Susan is married to Keith Arkell, one of Britain's rising Masters. Both Susan and Keith are professionals, Susan being the only one amongst Britain's female players. Clearly her dedication is now paying off in terms of results at international level.

Susan's most important victory in the Foreign and Colonial Tournament was against grandmaster Glenn Flear.

White: Arkell, Black: Flear
Challengers' Round 9, Scotch Opening

This is an error which permits a neat combination that wins material.

18 Nxf4 Qx7
19... Qx7
20... Qx7
21... Qx7
22... Qx7
23... Qx7
24... Qx7
25... Qx7
26... Qx7
27... Qx7
28... Qx7
29... Qx7
30... Qx7
31... Qx7

Flear must have overlooked this sacrifice. If in reply 17... Qx7, 18. Bxf4 wins.

The point of White's combination. The Knight forks Black's Queen and Bishop.

With two pawns for a Rook, White should now win relatively easily.

19... Qx7
20... Qx7
21... Qx7
22... Qx7
23... Qx7
24... Qx7
25... Qx7
26... Qx7
27... Qx7
28... Qx7
29... Qx7
30... Qx7
31... Qx7

Raymond Keene

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1464

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, January 21. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Fennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, January 23.

ACROSS
1 Childhood period (6)
2 Type from accusation (7)
3 Platform (4)
4 Convulsive (8)
5 Temporary river span (6,6)
6 Kest-like ridge (6)
7 Paper lanky (6)
8 "The Preacher" Old Testament book (12)
9 S. Vietnam guerrillas (8)
10 Become boring (4)
11 Perceive (6)
12 Calm, peaceful (6)

DOWN
1 Vein (4)
2 Bits and pieces (4-1)
3 Sealings (5)
4 Improvised (2-3)
5 As if (5)
6 Cake coating (5)
7 Sudden thrust (5)
8 Horace's scraps (5)
9 Very grave (9)
10 Always (4)
11 Hair part (4)
12 Scold (5)
13 Axial shaper (5)
14 Thick, heavy (5)
15 Old Fort car (5)
16 Sticky paste (4)

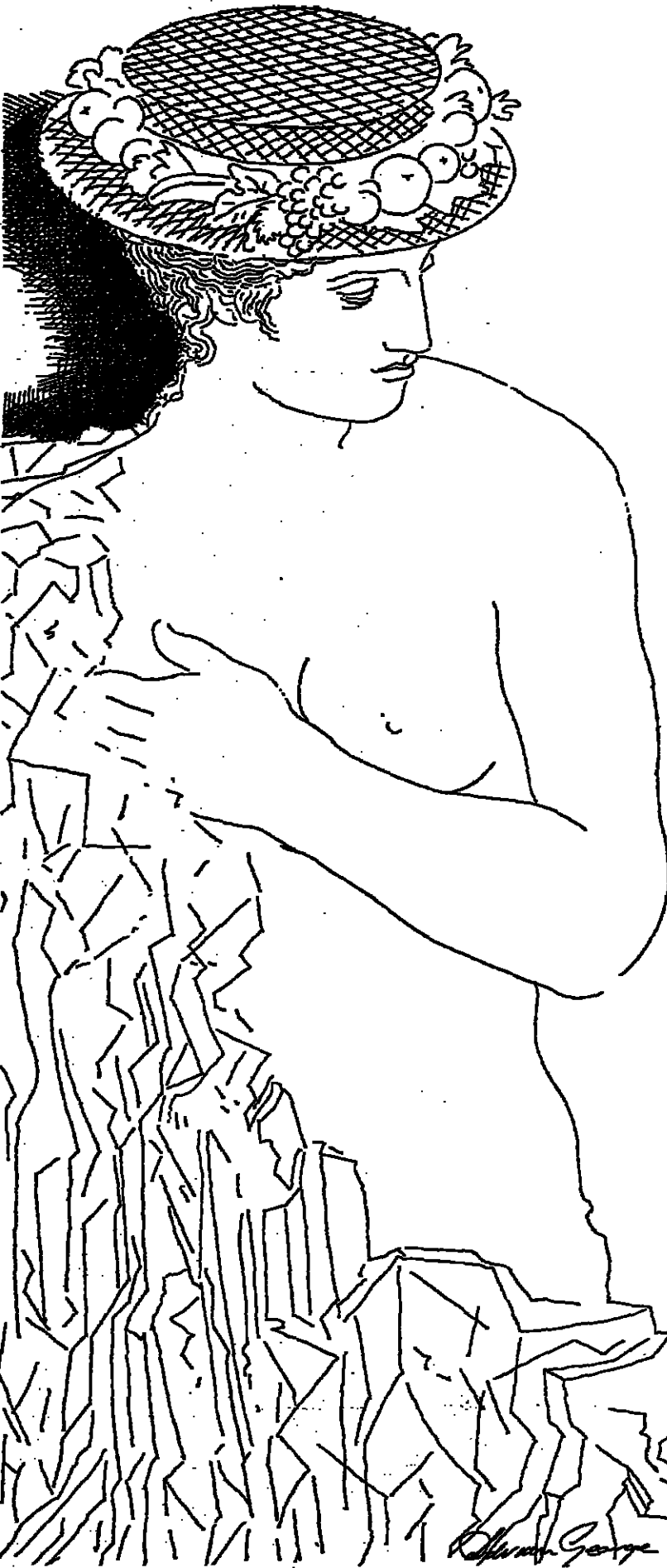
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

SOLUTION TO NO 1463 (last Saturday's prize concise)
ACROSS: 1 Tropic 4 Quarter 7 Mail 8 Aviation 9 Hackney Street 15 Abduct 16 Pharis 17 Harold Pinter 23 Sing 24 Slew 25 To-still 26 Lollap 27 Philander 28 Evade 4 Quits 5 Actor
DOWN: 1 Time 2 Philander 3 Evade 4 Quits 5 Actor 6 Evade 10 Local 11 Talon 12 Elemental 13 Task 14 Sash 18 All in 19 Ought 20 Dwell 21 Impel 22 Slew

The winners of prize concise No 1463 are: W. Watson, Linley Drive, Hastings, Sussex; and Mrs D. Dungey, South Place Gardens, St. Paul, Penzance, Cornwall.

REVIEW

Nothing like a Dame



Lerner/Lowe: My Fair Lady. Te Kanawa/Irons. LSO/Macauli. Decca 421 200-2 (One CD)

When DG picked on Jose Carreras and Kiri Te Kanawa for *West Side Story* a couple of years back, they certainly started a fashion. Since then no recording of a musical has seemed complete without at least one opera singer in the cast and there are several more to come this year.

The latest in the line, specially promoted just after Christmas, is Decca's version of *My Fair Lady*. Dame Kiri Te Kanawa as Eliza and the excellent young American tenor, Jerry Hadley, as Freddy, are opera's contribution. Warren Mitchell, perhaps the nearest equivalent we now have to Stanley Holloway's music hall bark, is Dooley. Jeremy Irons cuts a suave figure on the sleeve as Professor Higgins and there is even Sir John Gielgud to essay a few cautious notes as Colonel Pickering.

This star-spangled cast merits a modest welcome, with most of the expertise coming from John Mauceri who gives the LSO just the right showbiz glitter from the overture to the close. It is he who keeps together a team which sometimes gives the impression of not knowing one another too well. Irons reveals a pleasant singing voice and his diction is a delight. His duet with Sir John, "You did it", will give every male heart a touch of reassurance. But of course the real MFC is Dooley and it was clearly no great strain for Warren Mitchell to move to him from the blessed Alf Garnett.

Jerry Hadley, apart from a few terribly English vowels, is a most ingratiating Freddy. But Dame Kiri, sales value apart, does seem odd casting for Eliza. The cockney accent at the start is almost embarrassing and the chirpy Covent Garden sparrer aspect of the role is beyond her reach. Things improve once Eliza has received her grooming, but there must be several question marks over whether this really is Kiri Te Kanawa's repertory.

John Higgins

Shnitke: Concerto Grosso No 1, Cello for cello, harp and strings. Soloists, New Stockholm Chamber Orchestra/Markiz. BIS/Conifer CD 377
Adams: The Chairman Dances, Christian Zeal and Activity, Two Fanfares, Common Tones in Simple Time. San Francisco SO/de Waart. Nonesuch 9 79144-2 (CD)
Amadeus Percussion Group. Hungaroton/Conifer HCD 12855

Alfred Shnitke is now internationally acknowledged as the leading Soviet composer, and one waits with interest to see if his music will be as

much influenced by Gorbachev's reforms as Shostakovich's was by the relative liberalism of the later Khrushchev years. Meanwhile from Sweden comes a fine and fascinating record of three works from the 1970s, among which the Concerto Grosso no.1 (1976-7) is much the biggest and most important.

Like a lot of Shnitke's music from this period, it is a riot of quotations and allusions, a battlefield encountered after the exquisite truce of Stravinsky's "Dumbarton Oaks" Concerto has broken down. Parody, emulation and progress are now warring forces, tearing up scraps of Bach, cafe music and much else. But Shnitke stands in the line of Shostakovich and Mahler, the fine of composers who find in used and cheapened music the way to a nakedly personal expression. Indeed, the music is so personal, and so nightmarish, that the mind boggles in imagining how it could ever have been used, as apparently much of it was, for a film on Peter the Great.

The scoring is for strings with a concertino group of two violins and a keyboard player who switches between harpsichord and prepared piano. These effectively frame a continuous structure moving through phases of mad toccata, slow movement, cadenza and surprise. The performance, by Swedish artists under the expatriate Russian conductor Lev Markiz, fizzles with intensity.

There is also exciting work from Helen Jahren in the demanding Heinz Holliger role of the Concerto for oboe and harp (1971). The Piano Concerto of 1979 is very considerably harder to take, though I suppose one must believe that such a skilled ironist means its crudity and needs its huge climaxes on the Russian imperial anthem.

The latest John Adams record also covers a broad range, from the heavy banality of *Short Ride in a Fast Machine* to the wonder of *Common Tones in Simple Time*, a 20-minute essay in extremely slow modulation, done with Ligetian luminosity. *Christian Zeal and Activity*, distending a hymn tune, is in the same style, though the jokes of the superposed bible-thumping sermon, naughtily edited, wear a bit thin. The wit of *The Chairman Dances* is stronger: now I understand why people regretted this the *dansant* for the Mans was not included in *Nixon in China*. There is also a magical fanfare, *Tromba lantana*.

Minimalisms of different sorts are offered by the crack Hungarian percussion ensemble Amadeus on their exciting debut record: a version of Reich's *Piano Phase* for marimbas, a dispassionately vivid account of Cage's *Second Construction*, and two bursts of African drumming.

Paul Griffiths

A Rabelaisian starter

PAPERBACKS

Cod Strength, by Bamber Gascoigne (Penguin, £3.50).

This is a sparklingly clever, Sternean anti-novel in which the word game in the title forms the pinnacle of a witty lexical maze. In 1559 an apostate monk arrives amongst the cannibals of central Brazil, armed with much Calvinist zeal, but no Bible — only 10 bedraggled and bawdy pages of Rabelais. Reference to the male member, Cod, leaps from every lewd lead, and convinces the poor misguided, but religiously

enthusiastic, natives that spiritual virtue lies in sexual prowess. Jacques, who finds his every need quenched by one of 20 wives, finds himself in a position to disengage.

The Brazilian natives may misinterpret Rabelais, but Jacques's monthly reports are themselves deciphered, transcribed, and translated. His diary, riddled with editorial notes, and prefaced and postscripted by the pompous ramblings of French, Portuguese, and English scholars, mocks the belief that words can explain or mirror events. Gascoigne's book is a Rabelaisian construction, at heart a scholastic joke.

Chernobyl, by Frederik Pohl (Bantam, £4.95). Brutal fact and fictional realism combine in this powerful novel, which shows the countless human tragedies that lie behind international catastrophe. Dedicated to the brave men and women who prevented a terrible accident from getting any worse, it presents a cross-section of Kiev society, from director of the power plant, to young engineers and their families — all of whose lives are destroyed.

The facts themselves are perhaps too recent to need such detailed investigation, Sabine Durrant

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

Argument with an East Wind, by Joan O'Donovan (Black Swan, £4.95) Independent woman, aged 60, left by lover, ditched from job, stranded in provincial town, puts on her overcoat to that old wind and refuses to let life get her down. Bring the Jubilee, by Ward Moore (Gollancz, £3.95) Classic science fiction of alternate presents if history had changed. Charleyhorse, by Cecil Dawkins (Penguin, £3.95) Powerful woman compete on Kansas ranch: prize Dallas sans men. The Pale Sergeant, by James Murray (Black Swan, £3.50) Boozey, funny, and tragic goings on in the Outback.

NON-FICTION

My 60 Memorable Games, by Bobby Fisher (Faber, £4.95) Classic chess by the idiot genius, who exemplifies the melancholy truth that good at chess means good at little else. The Miners' Strike, 1984-5, Loss Without Limit, by Martin Adeney & John Lloyd (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £4.95) Instant and thoughtful history by distinguished media hacks. The Road to the Somme, by Philip Orr (Blackstaff Press, £9.95) Veterans of the Ulster Division, and friends and families of the dead, tell the story of the bloody summer of 1916.

GARDENING

Winter's crowning glory

Now is the time to decide to be a little more forceful with your rhubarb

The succulent stems of rhubarb, an honorary fruit by virtue of the way it is used rather than botanical definition, are greatly appreciated in the early months of the year. If you don't pack your rhubarb plant with compost, straw, or leaves last December, you can still do it now. The moment should then be covered with an old-fashioned terracotta rhubarb jar or a dark coloured, plastic bucket (which is as thick as you can find, because thinner plastic tends to be translucent). Whatever you use, there should be a hole in the top for ventilation and to provide light to draw the stems up.

The sheltered young stems will grow fast and give an early picking. Because forcing a plant like this takes the energy out of the crown, it is better not to pick the plant the following

year. However, as rhubarb takes a lot of space, this is not always feasible, so pick sparingly from a strong plant then let it grow on and stop picking earlier in the season.

February is the time to plant young crowns. Best for early forced stems are Thumper, Early, and Early Champagne. Plant the young crowns so the buds just show through the soil in a bed well fertilized with manure — about 1kg 2lb for each plant. Don't pick during the first year or force them for three years.

Glasgow Perpetual is a

variety exceptionally low in oxalic acid which means its greeny stems may be harvested until late summer without becoming over-sour (available from EDRA Sales, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3LG). It is one of several forms easily raised from seed. Sow early in spring in the warm, put plantlets of three or more leaves into pots and transfer strongly growing plants to the fruit garden in summer or autumn.

There has been considerable experimental work done on rhubarb over the past few years, resulting in some most interesting and fine-flavoured named varieties becoming available again. A hardy old variety called Prince Albert produces delicious, bright red stalks.

Francesca Greenoak

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THE WEEK AHEAD



RADIO

DOUBLE CENTURY: Ronald Pickup plays the title role in a rare production of Lord Byron's dramatic poem, *Manfred*. This is the first time the work has been broadcast in Britain and it goes out on Friday, the 200th anniversary of the poet's birth, as the climax of a series of celebrations on Radio 3. The study of a man in torment over a nameless crime, *Manfred* also stars Joss Ackland, Sara Kestelman and Robert Eddison. The overture and incidental music are by Robert Schumann. Radio 3, Friday, 7.30-9.10pm.



GALLERIES

SIGHTING LAND: Thérèse Oulton is only 34 but has already received extravagant critical praise for her painting. Her richly textured pictures are essentially abstract, though half-recognisable forms suggest magical, turbulent regions of caves, cascading waters, steep mountains and gloomy gorges, almost as if one was present at the creation of the world. Oulton's first London exhibition for three years will include large and small canvases and is on at Marlborough Fine Art, London W1 (01-629 5161). From Thursday.



CINEMA

VIETNAM REVISITED: Francis Coppola, director of *Apocalypse Now*, returns to the subject, but not location, of Vietnam in *Gardens of Stone* (15), a sombre, talkative adaptation of Nicholas Proffitt's novel. James Caan is a combat veteran training recruits for the Army's ceremonial unit. Stress is laid on the virtues of loyalty and brotherly love; Anjelica Huston, cast as a *Washington Post* reporter, provides the anti-war argument. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2 (01-836 6279), from Friday.



BOOKS

PAST IMPERFECT: Elaine Feinstein's *Mother's Girl* is a powerful literary novel about the way that the past reaches out into the present. Two sisters, separated since childhood by Nazi atrocities in Eastern Europe, discover the truth about their background and themselves. What really happened to their mother when their father escaped to the USA? A novel of suspense but the chief suspense is about the eternal mysteries of the human heart. Published by Hutchinson on Thursday, £10.95.



JAZZ

RUNNING WATERS: Benny Waters celebrates his 86th birthday in the way he knows best - by embarking on an extensive tour. The American saxophonist and clarinetist began his career in the 1920s, including stints with King Oliver and Fletcher Henderson. After moving to Europe Waters became a familiar face on the British circuit, remaining a sprightly, effervescent entertainer, still capable of reeling off some brisk solos. Bull's Head, London SW13 (01-876 5241), Thursday; Pizza Express, London W1 (01-439 6722), Friday and Saturday.



THEATRE

MILLER'S KORN: Jonathan Miller begins an ambitious but widely welcomed new season of seven plays as Artistic Director of the Old Vic, with a new production of Racine's classical tragedy *Andromache*, translated by Eric Korn. Janet Suzman has the title role, with John Barron, Peter Eyre, Kevin McNally, Ben Onwukwe, Juanita Waterman and Penelope Wilton also featured. *Andromache* began previews yesterday and its first night is on Tuesday. The Old Vic, The Cut, London SE1 (01-928 7616).

THEATRE LONDON

BICHARO "POOR DEAR": Tara Arts Group present a farcical comedy drawing on Shavtel (Gujarat) folk theatre. Touring. Croydon Warehouse, 62 Dingwall Road, Croydon (01-680 4060). Opens Tues.

COMPANY: Stage adaptation from a Samuel Beckett story, performed by Julian Curry, directed by Tim Pigott-Smith. Donmar Warehouse (01-240 8230). Opens Tues.

'88 CABARET REVUE: Nabli Shaban, Jag Piani, Newerrevue, John Hegley, Andrew Bailey, Otis Canneloni, in a benefit for the Spastics Society. Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford, Middx (01-588 1176). Tomorrow, 8pm.

KESHO/TOKI NO GAKE: British premieres of two modern Japanese plays, by Haseki Inoue and Kobo Abe. In English, performed by Jackie Skarvelis, Richard Tyrrell and James Ramsey. Bloomsbury Theatre (01-387 9529). Opens Mon.

SING OUT SISTER: Hazel O'Connor and fellow company members from *Girlfriends*, in a new post-World War Two musical, using standards and her own songs. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (01-748 3354). Thurs-Jan 23 only.

OUT OF TOWN

GLASGOW: The Vortex: Philip Prowse designs and directs a Noel Coward play, with Maria Aitken, Rupert Everett, Fidelis Morgan and Anton Amberton. Citizens' (041 425 0022). Free preview Thurs. Opens Fri.

HULL: A Hard Day's Night: Hull Truck in new play by Frederick Sian. Two Hull Beatles fans in 1963 and 1988, when they have become performers. To tour nationally. Spring Street Theatre (0482 26363). Previews on Thurs. Opens Wed.

LEATHERHEAD: A Touch of Danger: New Francis Durbridge thriller, with William Franklyn, Virginia Stride, Carol Cleveland and Darren Nesbitt. To tour nationally. Thorncliffe (0372 577677). Opens Tues.

OLDHAM: Twelfth Night: With Simon Dornford, Celia Mendonca, Della Goddard, and Malcolm Hedden. Coliseum (061 624 2829). Free public dress rehearsal Wed. Opens Thurs.

SCARBOROUGH: Mowgli & the Free People: Premiere of a jazz musical adapted from Kipling by Graeme Rigby, with music by John Mayer. Stephen Joseph Theatres (0723 370541). Tues-Jan 23 only.

CONCERTS

MESSE MUSIC: Mady Mesplé, the distinguished French soprano, sings Poulenc, Roussel, Liszt, Wolf, Oubradors and Offenbach. Graham Johnson is at the piano. Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Today, 7.30pm.

HICKOX/HARPER: The LSO is conducted by Richard Hickox in Mozart's *Mozart of Figaro* Overture, Richard Strauss's *Four Last Songs* (Heather Harper, soprano), and for Orff's *Carmina Burana* they are joined by the London Symphony Chorus. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, cc 01-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm.

THE WINNER: Lorna Anderson, soprano, won first prizes at the 1984 Peter Pears and Royal Over-Seas League Competitions, and now she sings Schubert, Schumann, Wolf, Tchaikovsky, Duparc, Poulenc to the accompaniment of Malcolm Martineau. Wigmore Hall, Mon, 7.30pm.

CONCERTO SERIES: In their Beethoven concerto series the London Solists' Chamber Orchestra has Hugh Timney soloing in the Piano Concerto No 3 while David Josefowitz conducts the *Coriolanus* Overture and Symphony No 4. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800). Mon, 7.45pm.

ST JOHN'S ORCHESTRA: The Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square, is heard in Fauré's *Pavane* and Mendelssohn's *Symphony No 4 "Italian"*. In between, Rodolfo Bonucci solos in both Mendelssohn's violin Concerto and in a hitherto unknown concerto by Fauré. St John's, Wed, 7.30pm.

HICKOX/OUSSET: The City of London Sinfonia is conducted by Richard Hickox in Ravel's *Sinfonietta*, Bizet's *Symphony*, the *Pavane* of Fauré and Ravel, and Cécile Ousset solos in Ravel's jazzy *G major Piano Concerto*. Queen Elizabeth Hall, Thurs, 7.45pm.

POMMIER/RPO: Jean-Bernard Pommier conducts the RPO in Berlioz's *Carnaval Romain* Overture, Bruch's Violin Concerto No 1 (soloist, Mark Kaplan) and Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No 5*. Barbican Centre, Fri, 7.45pm.

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: Tonight the final performance of Ponnelle's highly acclaimed new production of *L'italiana in Algeri* with Agnes Baltsa in the title role. Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066).

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: David Pountney's enchanting and provocative new production of *Hansel and Gretel* continues its run tonight, Tues and Fri 7.30pm. Mark Elder conducts (Peter Robinson tonight). *Rosenkavalier* takes to the stage on Wed and Sat, Jan 23 at 7pm with Valerie Masterson as the Marschallin. The final curtain comes down on Jonathan Miller's *Rigoletto* on Thurs (7.30pm). Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

LONDON SAVOYARDS: Tonight at 7.45pm a complete Messiaen performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's *Trial by Jury*, conducted by Richard Balcombe. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8891).

OPERA NORTH: The company's revival of *The Merry Widow* tonight and Mon through Fri at 7.15pm. Kathryn Harries, Paul Nilon and Peter Savidge lead the cast. Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351).

MAURICE HORHUT: Young pianist specializing in the boogie style of Fats Waller and Meade "Lux" Lewis. Burgh House, New End Square, London NW3 (01-431 0144). Sun 7.30pm.

JAZZ

BENNY GOODMAN TRIBUTE: The Goodman sound is provided by the Henry Mackenzie sextet and the Ray Wordsworth Big Band. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191). Tonight, 7.45pm, £3-£7.

MAURICE HORHUT: Young pianist specializing in the boogie style of Fats Waller and Meade "Lux" Lewis. Burgh House, New End Square, London NW3 (01-431 0144). Sun 7.30pm.

DAVE FRISHBERG: A witty pianist-cum-singer, the composer of "My Attorney Bernie". Pizz on the Park, London SW1 (01-235 5550). Mon-Sat 01-44).

JEAN TOUSSAINT: The pianist is an archetypal product of the jazz Messiaen's finishing school. Band on the Wall, Manchester (061 832 6625). Thurs.

ROCK

DEPECHE MODE: Basilidon's premier synth-rockers. Tonight, Whitey Bay Ice Rink (091 252 8240); tomorrow, Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590). Tues, G-Mex Centre, Manchester (061 834 0123); Wed, Sheffield City Hall (0742 735295); Thurs, St Georges Hall, Bradford (0274 752000).

JONATHAN RICHMAN AND THE MODERN LOVERS: Still best remembered for the 1977 hits "Roadrunner" and "Egyptian Reggae". Tonight Polytechnic of Central London, London W1 (01-638 8271); tomorrow, Mean Fiddler, London NW10 (01-961 5490); Mon, Riverside, Newcastle (091 261 4386).

TV FILMS

THE MAGGIE (1953): Alexander Mackendrick's often savage Ealing comedy about an American tycoon (Paul Douglas) being humiliated by canny Scots. BBC1, 2.15-3.50pm.

DEATH IN VENICE (1971): Dirk Bogarde as the composer obsessed with a beautiful boy as Venice succumbs to cholera; ravishing images and moody Mahler music. BBC2, Fri, 11.10pm-1.20am.



The Aboriginal actor, Roy Marika, in Warner Heag's 1984 film, *Where the Green Ants Dream*, which is having its British television premiere. Exploring a favourite Herzog theme, the clash of cultures, the film charts the confrontation between tribal Aboriginals and a mining company. Social criticism is combined with surreal comedy and Herzog makes striking use of Australian landscapes. Channel 4, Thurs, 12.30-2.25am.

FILMS

A CHINESE GHOST STORY (15): Entertaining fantasy from Hong Kong, based on popular Chinese stories; with Leslie Cheung as the man who falls for a possessed woman in a haunted temple. Directed by Ching Siu Tung. Metro (01-437 0757), from Fri.

THEATRE ROYAL, GLASGOW (15): Entertaining fantasy from Hong Kong, based on popular Chinese stories; with Leslie Cheung as the man who falls for a possessed woman in a haunted temple. Directed by Ching Siu Tung. Metro (01-437 0757), from Fri.

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GALLERIES

RICHARD DEACON: Prints and drawings by the sculptor who won this year's Turner Prize. Lisson Gallery, London NW1 (01-724 2739). From Mon.

GIACOMO MANZU: A retrospective of work by the celebrated Italian figurative sculptor. Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool (051 227 5234). From Mon.

CONTEMPORARY BRITISH RELIEF WOODCARVING: A fine survey of challenging new work in this traditional medium. Places by Lee Grandjean and Christine Kowal Post. DLI Museum and Arts Centre, Durham (0385 42214). From today.

MARIO MERZ: New works by an internationally acclaimed master of *Arte Povera*, or Poor Art, whose devotes use discarded or scrap materials. Anthony d'Offay Gallery, London W1 (01-499 4100). From Thurs.

IN ANOTHER WORLD: An international selection of work by so-called "primitive" or "untrained" artists. Arncliffe, Bristol (0272 299191). From today.

CHAIRS BY CONTEMPORARY CRAFTSMEN: Namely Jane Dillon, Erik de Graaff, Floris van den Broeke and Richard la Trobe Bateman. Crafts Council Gallery, London SW1 (01-930 4811). From Wed.

SCOTTISH BALLET: Two more performances of *The Nutcracker* in Glasgow today, then at Aberdeen Tuesday to January 23. Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234). His Majesty's, Aberdeen (0224 641122).

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE: Delibes's popular *Coppelia* transported to a Lancashire city. Lancashire City Theatre (0422 511558). Tues to Jan 23.

LONDON CITY BALLET: The old romantic ballet *La Sylphide* together with *Nutcracker Suite*. Playhouse, Derby (0332 365275). Tues to Jan 23.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Fiona Chedwick dances *Giselle* (Tues) and there are two performances (Wed, Fri) of Ashton's *The Dream* with Ashley Page's *Pursuit* and Robbins's *The Concert*. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (01-240 1066).

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RADIO

THE GREAT CATHEDRALS OF BRITAIN: An Origins series on the building of our medieval cathedrals, presented by Malcolm Billings and Tim Tatton-Brown. Radio 4, tomorrow, 3.30-4pm.

THE BRIDGE: John Hall's play has Harry Andrews as a retired army colonel battling to stop a sand and gravel company sending its lorries over his beloved old bridge. Radio 4, Mon, 8.15-9.45pm.

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THE YEAR OF DREAMS: A

look back at 1988, the year of worldwide radical protest, including interviews with Abbie Hoffman, Tariq Ali, and Richard Neville. Radio 4, Wed, 11.11.47am.

WHO OWNS BRITAIN?: The splendidly idiosyncratic Ray Gosling launches a six-part inquiry by visiting pit villages in south Yorkshire. Radio 4, Thurs, 9.30-10pm.

TELEVISION

HARD CASES: Gritty new drama series by John Harvey leading a team of inner city probation officers in the Midlands. ITV, Mon, 9-10pm.

DOWN WHERE THE BUFFALO GO: Harvey Keitel as an American serviceman with a crumbling marriage in Peter McDougall's play set in the Scottish Holy Loch. BBC1, Tues, 9.30-11.05pm.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND: Polka Children's Theatre production of puppet show for five to 10-year-olds. Feb 23-March 2. Also Saturday morning shows for children. Everyman, Regent Street, Cheltenham, Glos (0242 572573).

A CHRISTMAS STOCKING: Exhibition showing a child's view of Christmas, with displays of ancient and modern toys and presents. Ends today. Derby Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby (0332 31111 ext 405).

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SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Thanks to an enterprising piece of scheduling, BBC2 offers the chance to compare three films set on remote islands and concerned with human survival. The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe (2.00pm) was made in 1953 by the maverick Spaniard Luis Buñuel, who subtly subverts most of the assumptions of Defoe's novel. Far from arming his hostile environment, Buñuel's Crusoe played, with very little dialogue, by Dan O'Herlihy, finds himself a victim of it. John Boorman's 1969 film, *Hell in the Pacific* (10.10pm) brings together on its island, otherwise deserted, a United States marine (Lee Marvin) and a Japanese naval officer

CHOICE

(Toshiro Mifune). Having fought on opposite sides in the Second World War, they now have to find common ground. The version being shown re-stores Boorman's original ending. The trio is completed by The Saga of Ananias (11.55pm), the last film (1953) of Josef von Sternberg. Here the island (created, unlike Buñuel's and Boorman's, in the studio) is the refuge for the survivors of a sunken Japanese warship whose passengers for a beautiful native woman provide highly-charged drama.

Peter Waymark

Getting to grips with the war: Lee Marvin and Toshiro Mifune in *Hell in the Pacific*, on BBC2, 10.10pmJeremy Northam with Suzanne Hamilton and Kate Buffery in episode one of *Wish Me Luck*, ITV, 8.15pm

CHOICE

Created by the *Tenko* team of Lavinia Warner and Jill Hyem, *Wish Me Luck* (ITV, 8.15pm) is about two young British women who become secret agents in France during the Second World War. Liz (Kate Buffery) is a brigadier's daughter who yearns to escape from her cotton-wool existence in rural Devon. Since she was educated at the Sorbonne and speaks perfect French, she seems admirably qualified for a spot of sabotage and subversion on the other side of the Channel. But her husband is away in Cairo and she is reluctant to leave her small daughter, Matty

(Suzanna Hamilton), by contrast, comes from the East End, but she is also well qualified, being half French (and thus fluent in the language) and half-Jewish (and therefore hates the Germans). Since tonight's opening episode is mostly scene setting, that is about all I can tell you, except that because the series was created by females and has female central characters, it is not surprising that a spot of feminism crops up from time to time. The distributer from a male chauvinist, who declares that women agents are nothing but a liability, could be a taste of tensions to come.

P.W.

BBC1

- 8.20 *Roobarb* (r). 8.25 *Saturday Night Takeaway* (r). 8.40 *Rolland's Rat Race* 9.05 *Kleynur*. New cartoon series.
- 9.30 *Going Live!* The guests include Anna Scher 12.12 *Weather*.
- 12.15 *Grandstand*. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.20 *Football focus*; 12.40, 1.10 and 1.40 *Racing from Ascot*; 12.55 *News*; 1.00 and 1.55 *Rugby Union*: live coverage of France v England and second half of Ireland v Scotland (highlights of first half); 1.25 *Siding from Bad Mankheim*, Austria; 4.10 *Football* latest; 4.15 *Skating from Prague*; 4.40 *Final score*.
- 5.05 *News with Moira Stuart*. Weather 5.15 *Regional news/sport*.
- 5.20 *Roll Harris* cartoon time.
- 5.45 *Jan's Fix It*. Among those for whom Jimmy Saville fixes it is a headmaster who wants to drive a steamroller.
- 6.20 *Hi-Lo* (r). Peggy (Ceelex) almost loses her head when playing the role of Marie Antoinette.
- 6.50 *Star's Full House*. (Ceelex).
- 7.25 *The Paul Daniels Magic Show*. The guests include award-winning comedy magic act, Kohl and Company. (Ceelex).
- 8.10 *Bergerac*. The Jersey detective ponders the connection between the arrival of Phillipa Vale on the island and the disappearance of a racehorse. (Ceelex).
- 9.05 *News and sport*. With Moira Stuart. Weather.
- 9.20 *Cagney and Lacey*. Christine has a date with Brad Potter but it turns into a nightmare when he rapes her. (Ceelex).
- 10.10 *Carrot Confidential*. The first of a new series in which the comedian examines the vixen side of life.
- 10.45 *Sports Special*. Introduced by Jimmy Hill. 10.50 *Football*. Stereo highlights of one of today's Barclay's League matches 11.45 *Darius* semifinal action in the Embassy World Professional championship 12.30 *Skating*: the European Figure Skating championships from Prague.
- 1.00am *Weather*.

BBC2

- 9.00 *Ceelex*. 10.45 *Open University*.
- 1.30 *Made in China*. A documentary about an American girl with Chinese parents who jumped at the opportunity to study at Beijing University.
- 2.00 *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe* (1953) starring Dan O'Herlihy. Daniel Defoe's classic tale of a man fighting loneliness and depression on a desert island. Directed by Luis Buñuel. (see Choice).
- 3.25 *Explosive Viva*. A Spanish for beginners course presented by Yolande Vazquez (r).
- 3.50 *International Bridge Club*. The Canberra World Bridge tournament presented by Clare Harrison. The final stages of the competition featuring Tony Forrester of Britain, Sami Kahkela from Canada, Pakkara's Zia Mahmood and P O Sundelin of Sweden. The commentator is Jeremy Finn.
- 4.20 *The Week in the West*. The first of a new series of highlights presented by Christopher Jones.
- 5.00 *World Darts*. The first semifinal of the Embassy World Professional championship, introduced by Tony Gubba. The commentators at the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green, are Sid Waddell and Tony Green.
- 6.55 *NewsView*. Moira Stuart with today's news and sport. Richard Whitmore reviews the week's new in pictures with subtitles. Weather.
- 7.35 *The House of Foot*. This first of three films on great voices of today features Robert Lloyd, principal bass at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. With contributions from Sir Gerald Finley, Norman Foster, Arthur Hammond and Victor Borwick.
- 8.45 *Artists and Models*. The last of three films set in Paris during a century of revolution, starring Alan Dobie as the writer Charles Clairmont (r).
- 10.10 *Film: Hell in the Pacific* (1969). (see Choice).
- 11.55 *Film: The Saga of Ananias* (1953, b/w). (see Choice) Ends at 1.30am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 *TV-am*. Cartoons and family entertainment.
- 9.25 *773*. Young people's entertainment 11.00 *Terraviva*. Science fiction puppet series (r). 11.30 *Reilly* (r).
- 12.00 *The Fall Guy*. Adventures of a stunt man.
- 1.00 *News* 1.05 *LWT News* followed by *Salt & Swelling* from Toronto and New York State.
- 2.15 *Nearest & Dearest*. Vintage domestic comedy series starring Hylda Baker and Jimmy Jewel (r).
- 2.45 *Ice Skating*. The European Figure Skating championships from Prague featuring the men's free programme.
- 4.45 *Rassise* series. 5.00 *News* and weather followed by *Walt Disney Presents*.
- 5.30 *Blockbusters*. General knowledge for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness.
- 5.50 *The A-Team*. The team go into action when Murdoch is kidnapped (r).
- 6.45 *Catchpenny*. Game show. (Oracle).
- 7.15 *Film: Shogun - Queen of the Jungle* (1984) starring Tanya Roberts. Ted Wass and Donovan Scott. Adventure story of a young orphaned American girl who is brought up as a queen by an African tribe. Her idyllic existence is threatened by modern warfare and political intrigue. Directed by John Guillermin.
- 9.20 *News*, sport and weather.
- 9.40 *Aspel & Company*. The guests are Zsa Zsa Gabor, Patrick Moore and Alan Coran.
- 10.25 *The World According to Smith & Jones*. In this first of a new series Michael and Griff take the lid off the medical profession.
- 10.55 *Film: Sweeney 2* (1978) starring John Thaw and Dennis Waterman. Regan and Carter of the Flying Squad are after a gang of armed robbers. Directed by Tom Clegg.
- 1.00 *Night Network*. Includes Emma Freud talking to Hazel O'Connor.
- 4.00 *Sports Squad*. Police series.
- 4.55 *American College Football*. UCLA v Nebraska. Ends at 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.25 *Old Country* (r). 9.55 *Moneybags* (r). 10.25 *Rocky's Story*. Final part (r).
- 10.55 *Ice Skating*. The European Figure Skating championships from Prague.
- 11.25 *Danish Days* (r). 12.25 *Express Wu*. Episode 15 (of 68).
- 1.00 *The Other Emerald Isle*. A portrait of the Caribbean island of Montserrat (r).
- 2.00 *Film: Gabriel Over the White House* (1933, b/w) starring Walter Huston. A crooked president of the United States says dying but is given a new lease of life in order to mend his ways. Directed by Gregory La Cava.
- 3.35 *Film: Charley's Aunt* (1941, b/w) starring Jack Benny as the Oxford undergraduate who is forced into impersonating a fellow student's rich aunt. Directed by George Seddon.
- 5.05 *Brookside* (r). (Oracle).
- 6.00 *Right to Reply*.
- 6.30 *News* summary and weather followed by *Anne of Green Gables*. The sequel. The first of a two-part story about the grown up Anne Shirley, now a teacher with a son to write. Starring Megan Follows and Wendy Hiller.
- 8.55 *Magic Box*. Animated film.
- 9.00 *South Riding*. Episode two of the 13-part story about life in a Yorkshire community during the 1930s. Starring Jeremy Tuijn, Nicholas Baddock and Nigel Davenport (r). (Oracle).
- 10.00 *Black Forest Clinic*. Episode two of the hospital in south-west Germany.
- 11.00 *Late Night with David Letterman*. American chat show. Among the guests is Michael Caine.
- 11.50 *Barney Miller*. Police comedy series.
- 12.20 *Film: Castle of Fear* (1981, b/w) starring Susan Strasberg as a crippled heiress being frightened to death when she visits her father in the South of France. Directed by Seth Holt.
- 1.50 *Film: Seven Keys* (1962, b/w) starring Jeanette Carson. Story about an ex-gambler who tries to solve the mystery of a bunch of keys left to him by his ambassadorial father. Directed by Pat Jackson. Ends at 3.00.

BBC1

- 8.55 *Play School* 9.15 *Unbeatable*. Children's religious series 9.30 *This is the Day from a Dr Bernardo's house* in South America.
- 10.00 *What on Earth...?* Nature quiz (r). 10.25 *Talking Business* (r). 10.50 *Telejournal* (r). 11.20 *A vous la France* (r). 11.45 *Explosive Viva*. Spanish for beginners.
- 12.10 *See Hear*. For the hearing impaired 12.35 *Farming*. The pitfalls of a ted cottage 12.55 *Weather*.
- 1.00 *This Week Next*. Energy secretary, Cecil Parkinson discusses the politics of privatisation. 2.00 *EastEnders* (r). (Ceelex).
- 3.00 *Film: Across the Great Divide* (1978) starring Robert Logan. Set in 1876, the story of two orphaned children, left stranded in the North American wilderness, who decide to travel west. Directed by Arthur R. Dubbs. (Ceelex) 4.40 *The Flintstones*.
- 5.05 *Flex*, information series.
- 5.30 *Antiques Roadshow* from Ventnor on the Isle of Wight. (Ceelex).
- 6.15 *Lifeline*. The latest charity news. Plus, Leslie Crowther appears on behalf of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust.
- 6.25 *News with Moira Stuart*. Weather.
- 6.40 *Songs of Praise* from Wareham, Dorset. (Ceelex).
- 7.15 *All Creatures Great & Small*. Episode one of a new ten-part series based on the James Herriot vet books. (Ceelex).
- 8.10 *Whicker's World*. The second of ten programmes in which Alan Whicker talks to Britons who have come to live in Australia. (Ceelex).
- 9.00 *News with Moira Stuart*. Regional news and weather.
- 9.15 *Thatcher's Life*. The first of new series.
- 10.00 *Life Without George*. Comedy about a woman coming to terms with her husband's death. (Ceelex).
- 10.30 *Evening News*. Remember the Sabbath Day. A portrait of Nerymool, a Welsh mining community.
- 11.10 *Sporting Chance*. Includes Mari Caine on the piste (r).
- 11.40 *The Sky at Night*. Highlights of the final of the astronomical pictures; and the night sky in January.
- 12.00 *Weather*.

BBC2

- 8.00 *Ceelex*.
- 9.30 *Now on Two* beginning with *Benjamin* (r). 9.55 *Janosch's Story Time* 10.00 *Ceelex* (r).
- 10.15 *The Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show* (r) 10.35 *Now It's Your Turn* 10.40 *Blue Peter Omnibus* (r). 10.50 *White Peak Farm*. Episode one (of three) (r). (Ceelex).
- 12.00 *Windmill*. Chris Sarf with clips from television programmes displaying skills 1.00 *Destiny and Duty*. Cartoon (r).
- 1.10 *Horror: Death of a Star* (r). (Ceelex).
- 2.00 *International Rugby Special*. Highlights of France v England. Ireland v Scotland.
- 3.00 *European Figure Skating Championships* from Prague. Highlights.
- 4.00 *World Darts*. The final of the Embassy World Professional championship from the Lakeside Country Club, Frimley Green. The commentators are Sid Waddell and Tony Green.
- 6.30 *The Money Programme*. Presented by Brian Wicks and Valerie Singleton. Includes a report from Northern Ireland on plans to build a power station fuelled by peat-based lignite. The second of six programmes on Europe's civil rights.
- 6.10 *Ed Sunday* introduced by David Vine from Bad Kleinkirchheim.
- 6.55 *Weather to Sky*. The current sailing conditions at the major resorts.
- 9.00 *Did You See...?* 7 *The Vision, Closing Ranks and Winning in View* are reviewed by Brian Wicks. Roy Hattersley and Melanie McFadden.
- 9.25 *Design Classics*. The first of a series of programmes related by Janis Robinson (r). (Ceelex).
- 10.00 *Screen Two: Dead Lucky* (1987) based on the Robert Blythe's *Lake of Darkness*, the story of a football pool winner whose generosity leads to deadly results. Starring Nicholas Farrell, Philip Davis and Harriet Bagnall. Directed by Barbara Rennie. (Ceelex).
- 11.30 *World Darts*. Highlights of the final of the Embassy World Professional championship. Ends at 12.05am.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 *TV-am*.
- 9.25 *Wake Up London*.
- 9.35 *Fragrant Rock* 10.00 *773*. For the young 10.30 *The Adventures of Black Beauty* (r).
- 11.00 *Meditation on Hope*. An exploration on the theme of hope.
- 12.00 *Weekend World*. Robert MacKinnon discusses the proposed merger between the Liberal party and the SDP 1.00 *LWT News* 1.05 *Police*.
- 1.10 *Link*. David Alton talks about the question of disability and abortion.
- 1.20 *The Swerve* (r). 1.45 *My Little Pony*. Animated fantasy film.
- 2.00 *Encounter*. A film about Sister Margaret Shepherd of the Sisters of Zion, a congregation of Roman Catholic nuns once devoted to the conversion of Jews to Catholicism, now opposed to the cause.
- 2.30 *Hart to Hart* (r). 3.30 *The Good Life Guide*. Expaters soak up the sun in Spain.
- 4.30 *The Return of the Antelope*. The first of a new adventure serial.
- 5.00 *Film: Parent Trap II* (1987) starring Hayley Mills. The first of a two-part story about an 11-year old girl who tries to dissuade her divorced mother from moving to New York from Florida. A made-for-television movie created by Ronald Maxwell.
- 6.00 *Bulleys*.
- 6.30 *News* 6.35 *LWT News* and weather.
- 6.40 *Highway*. Sir Harry Secombe visits Benif and Macduff.
- 7.15 *Surprise Surprise*. (Oracle) (see Choice).
- 9.15 *News* 9.25 *LWT News* and weather.
- 9.30 *Crazy Like a Fox*. American private detective series.
- 10.30 *The South Bank Show*. A look behind the scenes of the making of the film *The Last Emperor*, directed by Bernardo Bertolucci.
- 11.45 *Australia 200*. Antipodean travelogue.
- 12.45 *Sam Fun in the Sun*. Ski-skiing.
- 1.00 *Night Network*. Includes Genesis and the best of Beat Club.
- 3.05 *Film: Borsellino & Co* (1974) starring John Delon as a Marseilles Mafia leader who vows to avenge the death of his friend. Directed by Luc Besson.
- 5.05 *Ben Casey*. Medical drama series. Ends 6.00.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.25 *Movie Match* (colour and b/w). Part 18 (of 23) of the history of the Indian cinema industry.
- 10.00 *The World This Week*. The peace plan for Central America; J K Galbraith on Reaganomics; Harold Evans on the American presidential race; and Petra Kelly on nuclear energy in Europe.
- 11.00 *Pob's Programme*. For children 11.30 *The Waltons*.
- 12.20 *APB*. The guests include Colin Vearncombe of Black.
- 1.30 *Opera Four: The Secret Marriage*. Michael Hampe's production of Domenico Cimarosa's domestic comedy recorded in the 18th century court theatre at Schwetzingen. Starring Carlos Peller, Barbara Daniels and Georgina Resick with the Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Droghda, conducted by Hilary Griffiths.
- 4.20 *Film: A Home of Your Own* (1964, b/w). A dialogue-free comedy about the construction of a young couple's dream house. Starring Ronnie Barker, Richard Briers and Janet Brown, directed by Jay Lewis.
- 5.10 *News* summary and weather.
- 5.15 *The Business*. Programme investigates the new department of enterprise; Lord Young answers his critics. Sir John Harvey-Jones, Norman Tebbit and Michael Heseltine are interviewed; and BAT's Patrick Sheehy talks about his company's bid for Farmers Group.
- 6.00 *International Volleyball* from the Alexandria Pavilion, Galespago. The first of four programmes about the wildlife paradise in the Pacific (r).
- 8.15 *The Stocks and Shares Show*. Quiz series.
- 8.45 *The Modern World*. Ten Great Writers. Joseph Conrad and *The Secret Agent*.
- 9.55 *Film: The Blue Lamp* (1950, b/w) starring Jack Warner and Dirk Bogarde. Drama about the hunt for a petty criminal who killed a policeman. Directed by Basil Dearden.
- 11.30 *American Football*. The featured game is the Minnesota Vikings at the Washington Redskins. Ends at 1.00am.

Radio

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 12.30pm, then at 2.00, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30 and 11.30.

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 3

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 4

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 5

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 6

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 7

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 8

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 9

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 10

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Radio 11

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF. News on the half-hour unit 1.00pm, then at 3.00, 5.00, 7.00 and 9.00.

Kremlin offer on arms rejected

From Alan McGregor
Geneva

The United States rejected a new Soviet arms offer on intercontinental nuclear missiles yesterday, dismissing the proposal as an attempt to impose "crippling restraints" on Star Wars.

"This is a renewed attempt to achieve positions that we previously rejected," a spokesman for the US negotiating team said only hours after the Russians had tabled the offer. "The protocol links reductions in strategic defensive arms with SDI and calls for restrictions beyond those in the ABM Treaty."

At the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Washington last year the leaders accepted to work out a legally-binding agreement to cut superpower intercontinental nuclear arsenals by 50 per cent, limiting each side to 6,000 warheads and 1,600 launchers.

The two sides want to complete details before a second summit in Moscow this year, but the ninth round of talks in Geneva suggested that the problem of Star Wars, formally called the Strategic Defence Initiative, is likely to bog down negotiations.

"We seek a separate and new treaty concerning defence and space issues," said the US spokesman. "In our view the Washington summit joint statement lays the groundwork for such an approach. We hope the Soviets will take a more realistic attitude towards implementing that statement."

Yesterday's Soviet draft protocol suggested that both sides extend compliance of the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty for 10 years. Strict adherence to the treaty would mean the US would be unable to test its Star Wars system for a decade.

In contrast to the US statements, the chief Soviet negotiator, Mr Alexei Obukhov, said: "Our proposal is based on the letter and spirit of the joint statement at last month's Washington summit. It does not allow the so-called broad interpretation of the ABM treaty."

This was a reference to the US Administration's contention that a "broad interpretation" of the treaty allows for the testing of SDI.

In the Soviet view a Star Wars system and an agreement on ABM compliance are "two inter-connected problems".

Historic visit, page 5

Contests split the climbing fraternity



Chris Gore (right) and Ben Masterton, both supporters of competitive climbing, practise on a training wall in London (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

By Ronald Faux

Chris Gore, one of Britain's top climbers, is in training for an international climbing contest later this month in Paris. He will compete before an audience of thousands and stands to win up to £3,000.

Another top climber, Andy Pollitt, climbs purely for pleasure - and between them is a divide that has split the British climbing fraternity.

The British Mountaineering Council stands alone among the international climbing community in refusing to support climbing competitions.

The contests are organized on outdoor cliffs or indoor climbing walls where competing climbers are presented with problems of increasing difficulty. The person reaching the highest point without falling off wins.

Chris Gore said: "I see nothing wrong with it as a small part of a much larger sport. There are only nine British climbers who have actually competed so it can hardly be much of a threat."

Andy Pollitt said: "The time spent travelling round the continent and hanging around for competitions would be better spent doing proper routes."

Seoul will avenge jet victims

From Gavin Bell
Seoul

South Korea has vowed to inflict "severe punishment" on North Korea for destroying one of its civilian airliners with 115 people on board last November.

The unusually stern warning of revenge was issued yesterday after a self-confessed North Korean agent admitted in public that she and a male operative had blown up the Korean Air Boeing 707 with a time bomb.

Within hours, an official statement said: "The Government sternly warns that North Korea will not be able to get away with its barbarous terrorism without receiving appropriate punishment for it, including retaliation commensurate with its gravity."

● TOKYO: In a broadcast monitored here, Pyongyang Radio said North Korea denied involvement in the loss of the South Korean jet. "I deserve to die," page 7

UK launches farm policy offensive

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Britain will begin a diplomatic offensive tomorrow designed to isolate West Germany and rally support for tough and enforceable controls on Europe's agricultural spending.

The offensive is a prelude to next month's critical summit in Brussels at which European leaders will again attempt to reach agreement on a way out of the EEC's budget crisis.

Absolute British insistence on radical reform of the Common Agricultural Policy remains undiminished since the abortive Copenhagen summit in December, and ministers are still determined to achieve a correct and lasting solution.

They are prepared to block agreement if necessary, but are anxious that if this happens the blame should be directed at West Germany, which they believe is ducking the problems of the EEC's long-term future for domestic electoral reasons. They believe wide agreement on the need for

agricultural spending cuts was reached at Copenhagen.

Tomorrow night Mrs Lynda Chalker, the Foreign Office minister, flies to Spain where she will hold talks with her opposite number on Monday, and on Tuesday she goes on to Portugal. Neither country stands to gain from ever-increasing expenditure on the Common Agricultural Policy.

On Wednesday she will meet the Dutch, who share Britain's views, in London for what is likely to be primarily a discussion of tactics.

On Thursday she goes to Bonn where she will attempt to ram home the urgent need for the Community to turn its back on limitless price support.

Britain is demanding a system of strict "stabilizers" which impose automatic limits on farm output, and will not agree a new EEC budget until this is achieved. West Germany wants a set-aside scheme for farmers taking land out of production.

Rebellion blow to Thatcher

Continued from page 1

Conservative MPs who voted against the Government were:

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South), Mr Rupert Allason (Torbay), Mr John Biffen (Shropshire North), Sir Richard Body (Holland-with-Boston),

Sir Nicholas Bonsor (Upminster), Sir Antony Buck (Colchester North), Mr Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton South-West), Mr Tim Devlin (Stockton South), Mr Denzil Dore (Chorley), Mr Hugh Dykes (Harrow East), Sir Ian Gilmour (Chesham and Amersham), Mr John Goss (Hendon North), Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup),

Mr Jim Lester (Brixton), Robert Rhodes James (Cambridge), Mr Peter Ross (Erewash), Mr Richard Shepherd (Aldridge-Brownhills), Mr Robin Squire (Hornchurch), Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East). In addition,

Mr Tony Marlow (Northampton North) acted as teller for the rebels.

Commons sketch

No secrets in the way MPs behave

Mr Hurd is not normally a Biro-sucker. There are those in the House in whose mouths a Biro sits well.

To the stupid, a sucked Biro lends intellect; to the loopy, solidity; to the dull, interest. But between the dry, controlled lips of Mr Hurd, a masticated Biro is bound to demonstrate a certain shiftiness.

Suck, suck, suck, he went as Mr Richard Shepherd moved the second reading of his Protection of Official Information Bill, suck, suck, suck, Mr Shepherd spoke with a charm, diffidence and sincerity more often encountered in normal people than in Members of Parliament, and this served to make Mr Hurd suck ever more vigorously.

"I'm always nervous of the proposition that we as MPs are somehow different," said Mr Shepherd, half-grinning the anxious laugh of an overwrought clergyman. Even the imposition of a three-line whip could not gag such radical outbursts.

Next up was Mr Merlyn Rees, shambolic and lovable, swaths of papers issuing higher and thicker from his uneasy clasp. As he spoke of the various idiocies promoted by Section Two of the Official Secrets Act - "when one reads the memoirs of eminent former Prime Ministers, they're breaking the Official Secrets Act all the time" - Mr Tony Benn, immediately in front of him, began puffing up his cheeks and blowing them out again, his favoured means of conveying particular disagreement but broad sympathy.

As Mr Rees speaks, arms aflutter, one is reminded of the comedy routines of Mr Harry Worth. But if such delightful memories were rushing through Mr Hurd's memory, he kept them to himself, his eyes almost closed, his head lying low, his thin, dandruff-chest dropping from his upper pocket a pink file full of a host of justifications perched awkwardly on his outstretched legs.

His demeanour had about it an air of skulking more commonly to be found in a vole, or, indeed, a mole, than in a senior Minister proudly parading his policies.

"I have classified documents at home that if I were to give them to anyone now it wouldn't matter a tinker's cuss," rambled Mr Rees. In front of him, Mr Benn, chewing something-or-other, looked as if posing for a drawing by a right-wing cartoonist, head eyes circling, deadly serious mouth scowling, his every molecule choreographed into a collective gesture of knowing indignation.

Mr Hurd rose to his feet. "The House is deeply grateful to my Hon Friend (Mr Richard Shepherd) for providing us with this opportunity for -" he began, but the rest of his sentence was drowned out in laughter.

He went on to argue that though there was nothing really wrong with Mr Shepherd's Bill, there would be something much better about the Government's own Bill in six months, though he could not at the moment say just what, but it would be well worth the wait.

Later, Mr Hurd said: "My Hon Friend has had his success and no-one would want to take that success from him" another rib-tickler that set the stalls agog.

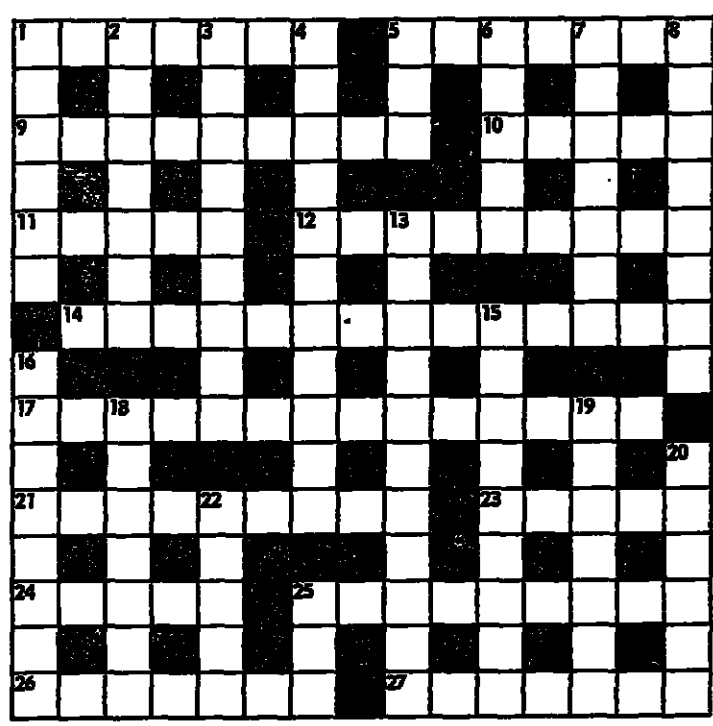
Curiously, though Mr Benn stared grimly at the jokes of others, his own speech was full of robust public-school humour, of the type employed by disconsolate art-masters of a paranoid disposition.

The revelations in his speech - MIS helping to get rid of Mr Heath, MIS being wired into a DHSS computer in Newcastle, the BBC being reduced to "the crawling, creeping servant of the Government" - seemed less barney as the day went on: one of the most commonly overlooked elements of the story of the boy who cried wolf is that, one day, the wolf actually did arrive.

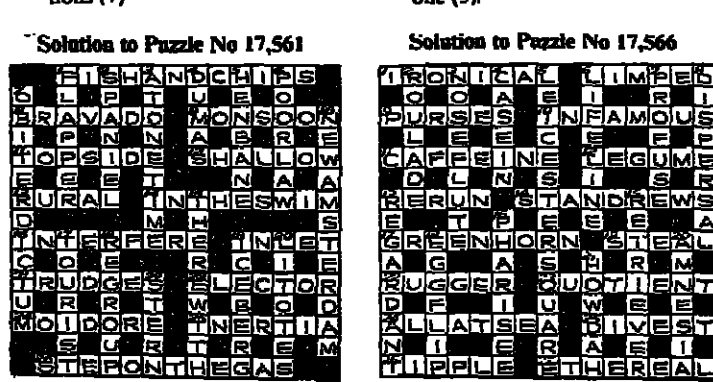
Once he had got his own speech off his chest, Mr Benn felt able to enjoy those of others, smiling merrily at Mr Heath. "There are people in the Tube reading a Daily Mirror and would say, 'After him - dangerous!' and nodding vigorously at others. In fact, it was a good day for most speakers - Heseltine, Owen, Gilmour, and most definitely Shepherd. But for Mr Hurd's Biro it remained a day of deep discomfort.

Craig Brown

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,567



- ACROSS**
- Metal from beasts wild and woolly (7).
 - For whom a headline may help to make a fortune? (7).
 - One's out of place under news chief getting sacked (9).
 - Printed material brought together in a small book (5).
 - Hearing noisy neighbour could be one (5).
 - Flowering shrub to give cover to forest officer, say (9).
 - Thomas gets par again - extraordinary show of illusion (14).
 - Those detailed by Mrs Giles (5,5,4).
 - In this forum other witnesses show common sense (6,3).
 - One in real trouble freed by the Duke of Milan (5).
 - She shows originally slender young lions - perfectly heavenly (5).
 - Clever chap swallows a lot perhaps going to Dover in this (4-5).
 - Concerning duplicated functions of the screen (7).
 - Bound to finish, following directions (7).
- DOWN**
- Deer seen in an excavation in Mayfair (6).
 - Pupil on strike is hard, rough and uncouth (7).
 - Air of fragrance or colour once embracing the French style (9).
 - Sweet product of the wet land, many admit (11).
 - Lodging for an old-time horse (3).
 - Sign for much of the book collection (5).
 - Get in trouble about coming up with a figure (7).
 - Reaction of Hoffmann's Augustus to the soup from this restaurant? (4,4).
 - Show way to chide the devil on top (11).
 - Such exercises ruined my casting (9).
 - Spray given first of all to Scrooge (8).
 - A very fine type of snake (7).
 - Elegance given a trial in Illinois (7).
 - Some swimmers take this brazier during physical education (6).
 - Hoped for a change of vestment (2).
 - A kiss, say, which may transport one (3).



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

BATTOLOGY

a. The study of bats

b. The study of leucacy

c. Stammering

BATOLOGY

a. The study of beambles

b. The study of bats

c. A necessary tautology

WIDDERSHINS

a. A witches' Black Sabbath

b. Kew's hares

c. Anticlockwise

DEASLI

a. Clockwise

b. A blind parsnip

c. A water softener

Solutions page 20, column 8

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E2 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: R A Dew, West Garth, Sutton Road, Wigginton, York; M Montgomery, 52 Springhill Gardens, Glasgow; G M Murphy, 27 Mattock Way, Abingdon; K Newbery, 10 Amity Road, Stratford, London; M E Whitaker, 11 Gullford Road, Leicester.

Name: _____

Address: _____

WEATHER

Widespread fog and icy patches in Wales and southern England will start another dull, misty day with any brightness or sunshine confined to coastal areas. Later in the day the fog will thicken again. After the clearance of overnight fog patches Scotland, Northern Ireland and northern England will have variable amounts of cloud with some showers, these chiefly in western and northern districts with the sheltered east having more sunshine. During the evening northwestern districts will become cloudy with light rain into Northern Ireland later in the day. With light winds in most parts it will feel mild in the north, but rather cold further south. Outlook for Sunday and Monday: Rain at first over northern districts, otherwise mostly dry with sunny periods. Fog and frost in the south will disperse by Monday as cloud and rain moves into these parts.

ABROAD

MONDAY: c. cloud; d. drizzle; l. fog; r. rain; s. sun; sn. snow; s. sleet; t. thunder.

Place	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	16-21	SE	10-40	Madrid	10-15	SE
Amman	10-15	SE	10-40	Moscow	10-15	SE
Athens	10-15	SE	10-40	Munich	10-15	SE
Bahia	10-15	SE	10-40	Nairobi	10-15	SE
Bombay	10-15	SE	10-40	Paris	10-15	SE
Buenos Aires	10-15	SE	10-40	Rome	10-15	SE
Calcutta	10-15	SE	10-40	St Petersburg	10-15	SE
Cairo	10-15	SE	10-40	Tokyo	10-15	SE
Cardiff	10-15	SE	10-40	Washington	10-15	SE
Chennai	10-15	SE	10-40	Wellington	10-15	SE
Copenhagen	10-15	SE	10-40	Yokohama	10-15	SE
Dublin	10-15	SE	10-40			
Edinburgh	10-15	SE	10-40			
Geneva	10-15	SE	10-40			
Helsinki	10-15	SE	10-40			
Jerusalem	10-15	SE	10-40			
London	10-15	SE	10-40			
Lyon	10-15	SE	10-40			
Manila	10-15	SE	10-40			
Mexico City	10-15	SE	10-40			
Mumbai	10-15	SE	10-40			
Nairobi	10-15	SE	10-40			
Paris	10-15	SE	10-40			
Rangoon	10-15	SE	10-40			
Rio de Janeiro	10-15	SE	10-40			
Sao Paulo	10-15	SE	10-40			
Seoul	10-15	SE	10-40			
Shanghai	10-15	SE	10-40			
Singapore	10-15	SE	10-40			
Sydney	10-15	SE	10-40			
Taipei	10-15	SE	10-40			
Tokyo	10-15	SE	10-40			
Toronto	10-15	SE	10-40			
Ulaanbaatar	10-15	SE	10-40			
Yokohama	10-15	SE	10-40			

AROUND BRITAIN

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to	-	-	4	41
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PART 2

THE TIMES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-30
SPORT 32-36

SATURDAY JANUARY 16 1982

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1436.7 (+38.0)FT-SE 100
1786.7 (+43.3)Bargains
27832 (20191)USM (Datastream)
145.09 (+2.01)

THE POUND

US dollar

1.7790 (-0.0385)

W German mark

2.9772 (+0.0029)

Trade-weighted

74.7 (-0.5)

Kenyon in
£11.5m
purchase

Kenyon Securities, the USM-quoted funeral director, is buying £11.5 million for Dorrington Brothers, a Herefordshire firm which last year conducted 5,700 funerals.

The deal is financed by the issue of 4.21 million Kenyon shares, of which 1.41 million are being retained by the vendors. The rest are being placed at 270p, with Pommes Funèbres Générales, the French group which already has a 10 per cent stake, offering to take up any that are not wanted. *Tempos, page 25*

Kenneth Fleet, one of the most experienced commentators in financial journalism, begins a weekly column on page 25.

Wells Fargo's
Barclays buy

Wells Fargo and Co, the US bank, has agreed in principle to buy Barclays Bank of California for approximately \$125 million (£70.3 million). Barclays Bank of California is a subsidiary of Barclays Bank of New York, which is owned by Barclays Bank of London.

Wigfalls loss

Interim pretax losses at Wigfalls, the Yorkshire and Midlands electronic retailer, increased from £697,000 to £837,000 on turnover up 5 per cent to £28 million. Retail turnover, excluding the rental business now sold, was up 25 per cent. There was no interim dividend. *Tempos, page 25*

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	1972.48 (+58.37)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2429.77 (+18.25)
Amsterdam	Amst. 100	1210.15 (+10.15)
Sydney	AS 100	1277.5 (+19.3)
Frankfurt	Frankfurt	1228.9 (-30.7)
Brussels	Brussels	3702.8 (+16.2)
Geneva	Geneva	270.8 (-0.5)
Zurich	SKA Gen	n/a
London	FT-30	1436.7 (+38.0)
FT-100	FT-100	1786.7 (+43.3)
FT Gold Mines	FT Gold Mines	254.5 (+10.4)
FT Gold Interest	FT Gold Interest	10.0 (+0.1)
FT Gold Shares	FT Gold Shares	87.96 (+0.40)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Alfred Lyons	342 1/2p (+14p)
Hawker Siddeley	461 1/2p (+20p)
Jaguar	346 1/2p (+13p)
Jobby Life	346 1/2p (+13p)
J Jarvis	750p (+50p)
Reuters	537 1/2p (+35p)
Roche	140p (+12p)
BOC	416p (+20p)
Bechtel	488 1/2p (+20p)
Body Shop	940p (+35p)
Consolidated	371 1/2p (+17p)
Tunstall	407 1/2p (+25p)
Unilever	503 1/2p (+21p)
Reed Int.	421 1/2p (+10p)
Castle Vixie	282 1/2p (+18p)
Ladbroke	361p (+12p)
Lloyds	283 1/2p (+18p)

FALLS

Wills Faber 221 1/2p (-18p)

Handerson Admin 725p (-25p)

Perry Group 192 1/2p (-12p)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 8 1/2%

3-month interbank 9 1/2%-9 3/4%

3-month billable 10 1/2%-10 3/4%

buying rate

US Prime Rate 8 1/2%

Federal Funds 6 1/4%

3-month Treasury Bills 5 1/2%-5 3/4%

30-year bonds 10 1/2%-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London New York

£ \$1.7790

£ DM 2.9772

£ Sfr 2.0359

£ FF 10.0881

£ Yen 231.38

£ Ind 74.7

ECU 0.93635

GOLD

London Fixing

AM \$484.80 PM \$480.30

close \$481.50-482.00 (\$271.75-272.25)

New York

Comex \$481.70-482.20

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Feb.) pm \$16.75hd (\$16.55)

Discount latest trading price

Bus 24 1/2p

Stock Market 24 1/2p

Foreign Stock 24 1/2p

Commodities 24 1/2p

Temp 24 1/2p

Appointments 24 1/2p

USM Prices 24 1/2p

Alpha Stocks 24 1/2p

Share Prices 24 1/2p

Share Prices 24 1/2p

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US trade gap
cut to \$13.2bn
Surprise fall prompts
strong market rally

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US trade deficit, now the most closely watched economic indicator, dropped by a surprising 25 per cent in November to \$13.22 billion (£7.4 billion), sparking an exuberant rally on international financial markets yesterday. Both the dollar and share prices soared on the positive news.

Officials attributed the improved data - which followed a record monthly deficit of \$17.63 billion in October - to a record surge in US exports, which are responding strongly to the lower dollar. Exports in November increased by 9.4 per cent to a record \$23.8 billion.

Mr Clayton Yewter, the US Trade Representative, said the data suggested the US was in the midst of an extraordinary "export boom", which should lead to further substantial declines in the deficit this year. He said exports had increased by 17 per cent in real terms since the third quarter of 1980.

But economists were quick to point out that despite the market's euphoria, the data for the latest two months revealed an average deficit of about \$15.5 billion, which would result in another record deficit for 1981 of close to \$17.5 billion.

Since the stock market crash in October, however, markets have been awaiting positive news on the trade deficit, which was cited as one of the underlying causes of the collapse.

The trade figures are thoroughly dissected each month from Wall Street to Tokyo, resulting in a frenzy of buying and selling on currency and

share markets. The August deficit of \$14.7 billion - announced on October 14 - was responsible for a 95-point drop on Wall Street, which set the stage for the record 508-point plunge on Black Monday. Similarly, the record October deficit, announced last month, caused the dollar to plunge to its lowest level in 40 years.

Analysts had been anticipating a deficit in November in the range of \$14.5 billion to \$15.5 billion, and had predicted that anything more than \$14 billion would be bad news for the dollar, resulting in another severe test.

But the positive figures resulted instead in a flood of buy orders, which propelled the Dow Jones industrial average up more than 50 points to 1,968 in afternoon trading. The data also revealed a significant decrease in the US

Dollar respite
'temporary'

The US trade data for November will provide only a temporary respite for the dollar, said Mr Rudiger Doranbush, the professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

"The dollar will go up. There will be much optimism and much applause, then a 20 to 30 per cent depreciation over the next two years," he said at a meeting organised by the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London.

He said a rate of 100 yen to the dollar might be necessary by the end of 1982 to restore US trade to balance by 1990.

appetite for imports, which declined by 6 per cent to \$37.02 billion.

The November data supported the assertions of Mr Noboru Takeshita, the Japanese Prime Minister, that his nation's surplus was declining and would continue to do so. The US deficit with Japan narrowed sharply to \$4.6 billion from \$5.6 billion in October.

Officials announced the trade figures, which are inconclusive and often revised, after the release of other positive news on inflation and US retail sales.

Inflation, as measured by the producer price index, dropped by 0.5 per cent in December after remaining unchanged in November. Retail sales increased by 0.7 per cent in December, reflecting a slight slowdown in consumer spending which was less than predicted. In addition, US industrial production rose 0.2 per cent in December to 5.2 per cent, the best annual performance at US mines, factories and utilities since 1984.

The Reagan Administration cited the trade figures as good reason to avoid protectionist legislation which has been proposed in Congress. Mr Yewter said: "With US exports rising, and American manufacturing poised to take advantage of the lower dollar, a protectionist response at this time would be a tragic mistake."

Mr William Verity, the Commerce Secretary, said the data suggested US companies were finally beginning to regain the "home market" from foreign competition.

Inflation rate of 3.7%
is lowest for 12 months

By David Smith

Economics Correspondent

The rate of inflation fell to 3.7 per cent last month, its lowest for a year, as the reduction in mortgage rates by banks and building societies took effect.

The rate for the year to December compared with 4.1 per cent in November and 4.5 per cent in October, and was in line with the Treasury's forecast of a 4 per cent average rate for the fourth quarter.

But the fall in inflation also added to ministerial concern about the level of pay increases in the economy. There are now real worries that excessive rises in earnings are jeopardising Britain's competitiveness.

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Employment, said that after taking into account tax cuts, employees needed a rise in gross earnings of less than 2 per cent last year to maintain their standard of living. Figures released on Thursday showed average earnings rising at 8.25 per cent.

"This low level of inflation should influence wage negotiators in the coming months," Mr Fowler said. "We cannot relax our efforts to control inflation and to keep prices down. This is vital to the continued success of our economic strategy, to our

RETAIL PRICE INDEX

	Index	% change 1 month	% change 12 months
July	101.8	-0.1	4.4
August	102.1	0.3	4.4
Sept	102.4	0.3	4.2
Oct	102.9	0.5	4.5
Nov	103.4	0.5	4.1
Dec	103.3	-0.1	3.7

(Index Jan 87 = 100)

Source: Department of Employment

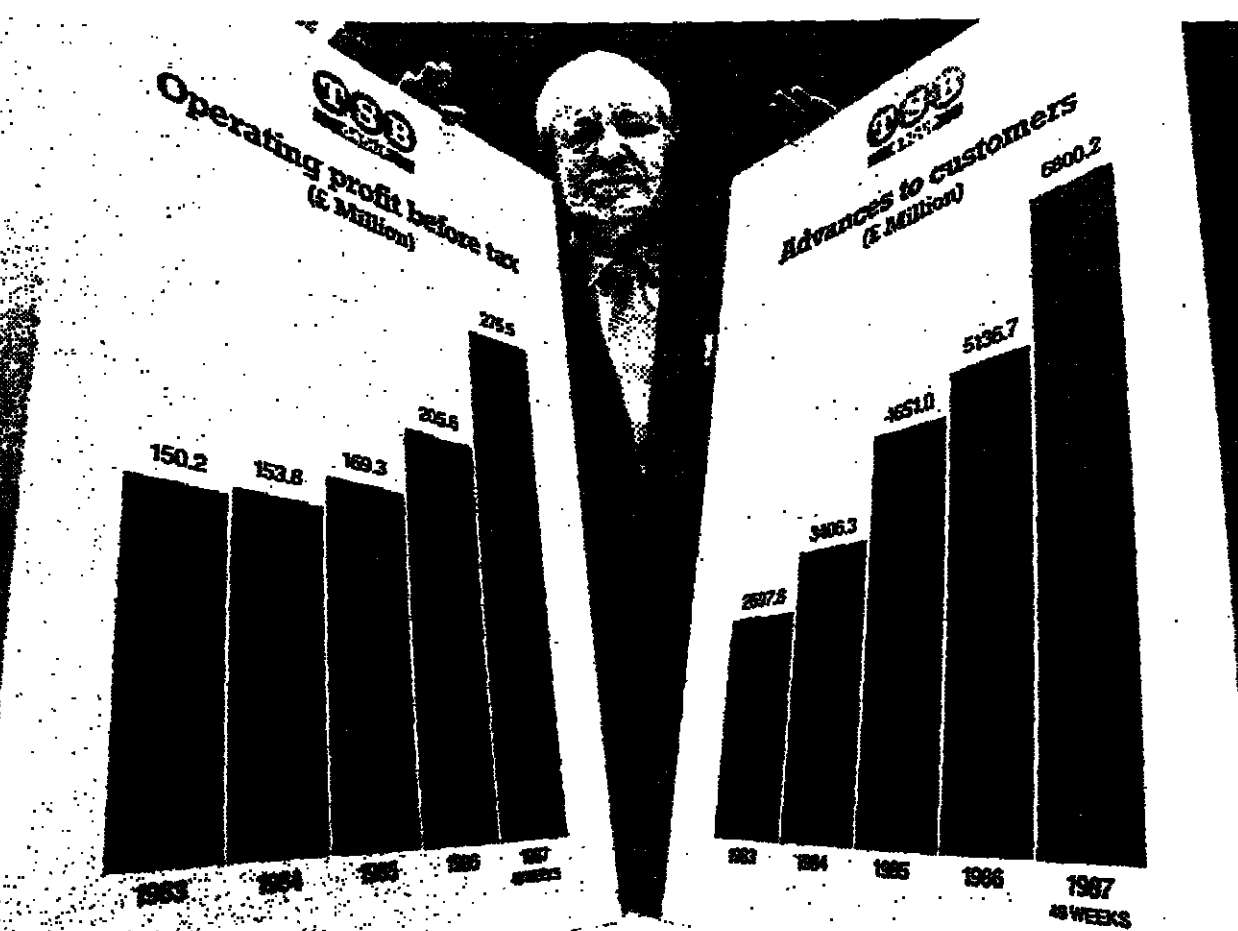
national insurance, rose 1.9 per cent in the 12 months to December, compared with 2.4 per cent in November.

Although the inflation news last month was good - and because of a Department of Employment computer error the true rate may have been 0.1 points lower than published - it confirmed a picture of strong growth in real incomes.

The fear is that consumer spending will continue at too rapid a rate when set against industry's ability to supply goods, and the balance of payments could deteriorate alarmingly.

Britain's inflation rate of 3.7 per cent last month was below the latest average of 3.9 per cent for the Western industrialized countries, but above the European Economic Community average of 3.3 per cent. France and West Germany both have lower inflation than Britain.

There were price increases last month for fresh food, clothing and restaurant meals, among other items, but these were insufficient to prevent an overall fall in the index. The tax-and-price index, which adjusts the retail price index for changes in income tax and



Charting progress: Sir John Read, chairman, illustrating the group's performance yesterday (Photograph by Nick Rogers)

TSB profits advance to £275m

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

The TSB Group yesterday announced pretax profits up to £275.5 million from £205.6 million for the 49 weeks to October 31, despite a continuing sluggish performance by its banking operations.

The accounting period has been changed to end on October 31, but adjusting the

figures to an annualized basis, profits increased 40 per cent to £288.6 million. It is the first full year of results since the group was floated on the stock market.

But despite a strong increase in customer lending and a 52 per cent rise in mortgage lending, bank profits rose by only 18 per cent, to £185 million, including commissions earned on selling financial

services through branches.

Sir John Read, chairman, said other areas of the TSB had performed particularly strongly. Finance house services, for example,

Halpern's sternest test may need more than his energy

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UNLISTED SECURITIES FOREIGN EXCHANGES

FOREIGN EXCHANGE:

21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100																				
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12 mo: 5.45-5.15
Dollar CDs (%)
1 mo: 7.00-7.00

[illegible]

GOLD

COMMODITIES		LONDON FEX	
Oil	10.0	12.2	75.0
Gas	1.0	1.2	1.5
Grain	1.0	1.2	1.5
Metals	1.0	1.2	1.5
Softs	1.0	1.2	1.5
Energy	1.0	1.2	1.5
Chemicals	1.0	1.2	1.5
Food	1.0	1.2	1.5
Textiles	1.0	1.2	1.5
Transportation	1.0	1.2	1.5
Insurance	1.0	1.2	1.5
Real Estate	1.0	1.2	1.5
Art	1.0	1.2	1.5
Collectibles	1.0	1.2	1.5
Commodities	1.0	1.2	1.5
Energy	1.0	1.2	1.5
Chemicals	1.0	1.2	1.5
Food	1.0	1.2	1.5
Textiles	1.0	1.2	1.5
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Transportation	1.0	1.2	1.5
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Real Estate	1.0	1.2	1.5
Art	1.0	1.2	1.5
Collectibles	1.0	1.2	1.5
Commodities	1.0	1.2	1.5
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Chemicals	1.0	1.2	1.5
Food	1.0	1.2	1.5
Textiles	1.0	1.2	1.5
Transportation	1.0	1.2	1.5
Insurance	1.0	1.2	1.5
Real Estate	1.0	1.2	1.5
Art	1.0	1.2	1.5
Collectibles	1.0	1.2	1.5
Commodities	1.0	1.2	1.5
Energy	1.0	1.2	1.5
Chemicals	1.0	1.2	1.5

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Table 1

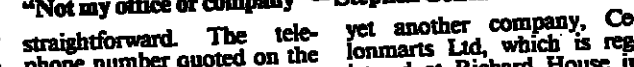
FAMILY MONEY

D Mark	2.54	_____	_____	_____	7 day	0481
French Franc	7.26	_____	_____	_____	7 day	0481
Swiss Franc	1.61	_____	_____	_____		

* Interest taxable, paid gross † Tax free ‡ Higher returns for larger balances § All major banks—Not West & B
 † 2.5% ‡ 2.5% § Societies chosen based on high street presence, higher rates can sometimes be obtained from
 societies - contact Chase de Vere Moneyline 01-404 5785 † 2.5 per cent for balances below £500, first £70 of interest
 free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less ‡ Additional holdings up to £5,000 for investors re-
 ceeds of existing matured certificates † Charge for instant access

[illegible]

Futures fade away



out what they are doing
my company's number."
However, telephoning
London Futures is not ex

UNIT-LINKED IN

clue to the whereabouts of the elusive First London Futures might lie in the comparatively peculiar banking arrangements. A cheque paid to London Futures by Blyth Cadle was endorsed over

"The office in Madison Street is not my address, it is not my office, it is not my company. It is a downgrading of my personal liberty that my name be used by someone else in that way."

“Neither they nor Cadle are members of AFBF,” he explained.

Nat Westminster
Royal Bank of Scotland
TSB
Citibank NA

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	8.50%
BCCI	8.50%
Consolidated Crds	8.50%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	8.50%
Citibank NA	8.50%

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

الرجوع

159.3	+2.8	East Fund	232.6	240.4
441.2	-11.3	Pacific Basin Fd	154.4	161.7
391.5	+0.9	N American Fd	118.6	122.5
235.6	+0.4	Emerg Fund	121.5	121.9

150

FAMILY MONEY

New Year lessons for new students

The student year may not begin until October but the rush for grants starts now. CHARLES JACKSON looks at how much is on offer and at the different types of grants for which students can apply

A New Year marks the time when local education authorities are swamped with grant applications from young people wishing to go to college or university in the autumn — and the sooner applications are submitted, the more chance there is of any certainty of obtaining a grant.

Student grants come in two forms, mandatory or discretionary.

Mandatory awards are given under statutory regulations so that, provided certain conditions are satisfied, awards will be automatic.

Courses covered by mandatory awards include teacher training, first degree courses or their equivalent, Higher National Diplomas in Higher Education, and the Higher National Diplomas of the Technician Education Council or the Business Education Council.

Students who want to go on other courses have to apply for a discretionary award — the value of these awards can vary from about the same as mandatory awards down to almost nothing.

Although it is possible to get a grant at any time up until September — and in some cases beyond that — the National Union of Students strongly recommends that applications are made early in the first quarter of the year in which the student intends to start his or her course.

This is especially important for students applying for discretionary awards where the outcome is less certain.

So far, only the basic award increases have been released for the year 1988-89. However, where the table shows a question mark expect an increase of about 4 per cent.

Intending students must not have done anything naughty — black marks for conduct will mean no grant. Their parents must also agree to repay any accidental overpayment.

Those who have not been "ordinarily resident" in the UK for three years immediately before the course starts or who have previously attended a full-time course lasting two years or more will not usually get a grant, but up to one term on a course can be ignored.

If students are deemed "dependent" on their parents, they will be expected to make a contribution to the grant on a means-tested basis.

To be classified as "independent" — that is, free of any assessment for parental contribution — the student must be 25 or over or have

worked or been unemployed, whether registered or not, for at least three years. "Mature" students are those aged 26 or more and with earnings of at least £12,000 gross during the previous three years.

An addition is available to some disabled students and this applies whether their grant is mandatory or discretionary.

At the moment they are entitled to up to a maximum of £700 a year towards any extra expenditure caused by their disability as a result of attending the course.

Any money students earn

during term time will be taken into account in assessing grants. This applies whether or not the student is classed as independent.

However, as grants do not usually include a maintenance element for all vacations, summer holiday earnings will normally be ignored.

For further information contact: National Union of Students, 461 Holloway Road, London N7 6LJ; Department of Education and Science, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1 7PH; National Bureau for Handicapped Students, 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ.



Wrapped up for winter

Snow finally started falling in the Alps last week, which did not just delight people fearing that their winter holidays would be all *apres* and no *ski*, but came as a relief to the winter sports insurers too.

Claims always go up when snow levels are low; skiers are more likely to hit rocks and ice on the ski runs that are open, and at least some will go off piste, where they are far more likely to meet hazards than on the standard slopes. What is more, when accidents happen they will often be more serious than usual.

Whatever the weather conditions, skiing insurance is vital. Half a million British holidaymakers soar down the slopes every year, and on past form almost one in 20 will end up by claiming on the medical expenses cover their insurance policies provide. Figures this season may be higher still.

Most insurers offering travel insurance will provide a winter sports extension, but according to the Ski Club of Great Britain ski insurance specialists usually provide the best overall packages. The three best known are Douglas Cox Tyrie (01-488 3191), which provides the club's own insurance package, Fogg Travel Insurance (0623 313331) and National Westminster Bank (01-726 1000).

Their policies cover all the standard risks, but provide various extras covering skis, the cost of ski passes you cannot use and avalanche cover. Medical expenses cover is probably what matters most.

Fogg Travel's Supaski policy, which costs £30 a head and lasts for between 11 and 17 days, offers up to £100,000 on medical expenses, while the limit on the matching NatWest contract is up to £250,000. Limits of that size certainly make sense if you are skiing in the United States, and leave a very generous margin for claims in Europe.

The medical expenses do not just cover the cost of treatment, but if need be, the cost of helicopter rescue, and an air ambulance home. But the cost of private treatment back home is not included — it is assumed that the NHS will pick up the pieces on home territory.

Injury patterns are changing. Serious ski and more flexible bindings now ensure that there are far fewer broken legs than in the past, and most medical claims now are for damaged shoulders, arms and knees.

The policies also include cover against the risk of paying damages to anyone you may injure on the slopes, and allow you to claim up to £5,000 for loss or theft of your baggage, and up to £250 for stolen money. There are also standard clauses ensuring that if family bereavement or jury service forces you to cancel your holiday, you can claim back the cost.

One extra clause is standard. If you damage yourself badly enough on the slopes to end up in hospital, or worse, need to be flown home, the policies will usually pay for



Crunch time: A skier is injured in an accident on the slopes. A holidaymaker can reduce the pain with the right insurance

the proportion of the holiday that you have not been able to enjoy. But the cover does not apply if you can still hobble round the slopes enviously watching other people enjoying themselves.

Specialists will settle various other expenses, too, which

anyway. According to most brokers, the insurance they provide is very good.

No company will provide general cancellation on the grounds that there is very little snow. But tour operators, including Horizon and Thomson, will provide snow guarantees once you are at your resort. If no slopes are open in your resort, the companies will pay for transport to local resorts where you can ski. If no slopes at all are open in the area, they will provide you with £25 for every day that you cannot make your way anywhere.

The policies have been extremely useful this year, but faced with heavy claims companies may not be so generous in future.

Skiing inevitably produces the very occasional tragic accident. Mike Namesvay, Britain's freestyle champion in 1982 and 1983, has been paralysed from the neck down since a skiing accident three years ago.

The standard packages does not pay out lump sums except for the loss of eyes or limbs, but disaster cover is available. Douglas Cox Tyrie has a policy costing £16, which will provide a lump sum of £50,000 and £100 a week for total or partial disablement, for as long as you cannot work. Namesvay has been promoting the scheme for the company.

Staying in a village can be paid for

may or may not appear in the general packages. Douglas Cox Tyrie, for instance, will pay up to £250 for the loss or theft of your skis, or those you have hired.

The group's policies will also cover for the cost of ski passes under the skipack section. Most resorts issue "passes" allowing you to use the ski lifts for the full week or fortnight you are there, and they can cost up to £200. If you cannot ski because of an accident in the first few days, the policy will pay for the ski pass that you have not been able to use. But it does not apply if bad weather ensures that the ski-lift is out of use or out of order.

Finally, the specialist contracts also repay the cost of staying in a village for the night if the road to or from your resort has been blocked by an avalanche.

Companies offering package tours also provide their own insurance plans, and you will be covered automatically unless you opt out. Indeed, some insist you take their cover, which possibly makes sense

It is useful insurance for anyone, but it is particularly useful if you are self-employed.

Some people do not go off on fixed tours, but ski when they can — usually in Scotland. The Carte Ecosse

scheme, produced by the Glasgow insurance brokers, gives you a package of benefits excluding health cover for up to 25 days — assuming that you will use the NHS — and some other insurers do the same.

Tom Tickell

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THE M&G GROUP

In defence of an old age income

A strong lobby is forming up to champion the cause of elderly home-owners who mortgage their homes to boost their income. An early-day Commons motion signed by 67 MPs has been put down calling upon the Chancellor to ease the restrictions on home equity loans.

At the moment, elderly home-owners get no tax relief on the interest on the loan if the interest is rolled up, so the sum borrowed plus the interest is repaid after the home-owner's death out of the proceeds of the property sale. But home-owners do get tax relief if the interest is repaid normally during their lifetime.

Elderly people use the tax relief to boost their income. But their income could be doubled if the interest was rolled up and the tax relief still paid over during their lifetime. The income depends on the home-owner's age as the sum borrowed is used to buy an annuity, which pays a regular income — actuaries calculate that the older the person, the shorter period the money will have to be paid, so the sums are higher.

Home income plans are just not viable for those under 70 as their life expectancy is so long that the income is too low. A woman of 75 taking out a £30,000 loan can expect an income of £1,494 a year with an element of capital repayment if she dies within five years, or £1,645 with no compensation if she dies soon after taking out the mortgage.

Rolling up the interest payments and retaining the tax relief would give her an income of £3,391 or £3,451 without protection.

Companies such as Allied Dunbar that produce the plans will normally lend up to 80 per

cent of the value of a property up to the £30,000 limit for tax relief. Thus properties worth more than £37,500 do not yield up any extra income over less valuable properties. Interest at 8.25 per cent on a £30,000 loan would result in interest of £1,800 rolling up in a year. Thus the interest could mount up to substantial sums over 10 or 20 years.

So, if the Government allows lifetime tax relief on rolled-up interest, home-owners will be able to borrow only much smaller percentages of the value of the houses. Someone with a property worth £40,000 would have no problem borrowing £30,000 now, but if interest were to be rolled up he or she could expect to raise a maximum loan of £20,000, but this should bring a higher return.

The change would be valuable for married couples. A couple both aged 75 would get £1,061 a year under current rules, but £2,867 with interest rolled up.

John Butterfill, MP for Bournemouth West, has calculated that the Treasury would benefit from the proposed change because the tax on the annuities would outweigh the tax relief foregone.

About 20,000 elderly home-owners have a home income plan out of around a million who could benefit from the scheme.

Age Concern and Help the Aged are backing the move to help more elderly people stay in their own homes and cope with repairs and other expenses. The "house rich, cash poor" elderly increasingly find their children who stand to inherit their homes are the ones trying them to take up the scheme.

Vivien Goldsmith

FAMILY MONEY

Two royal lords produce the recipe to fill a gap

Lord Lichfield and Lord Linley give the royal touch to a Business Expansion Scheme being launched on Monday.

The existing up-market Tai Pan restaurant in Knightsbridge, London, and a new restaurant in the Chelsea Harbour development will form the core of the Latchmead Group plc. The Tai Pan is being sold to the group by Lord Lichfield and the renowned restaurateur, Edward Lim.

The principal objective of the company, however, is to pioneer a new concept in dining out, which will fill what the chairman, Lord Lichfield, describes as "the considerable void" between the likes of McDonald's and middle-of-the-road restaurants.

The restaurant Deals, which is due to open in March, is

planned as the first of a chain of sophisticated but informal diners. It will seat 175. Chelsea Harbour will eventually include flats and houses, offices, shops and a 200-room hotel. There is, of course, no guarantee that the scheme will be completed on time.

Lord Lichfield says Deals is "the prototype from which we will clone others". Reflecting the style of New England, Deals will be light and airy, and a "very wood-based restaurant". Lord Linley - surprise, surprise - will be responsible for the interior design and promotion of the restaurants.

The company aims to make the Tai Pan more popular at lunchtime. At present, it is running at 90 per cent of capacity in the evenings, but only 1 per cent at midday.

Mr Lim, under whose guidance the Tai Pan has received considerable acclaim, will be in control of the day-to-day management of the restaurants. He has appointed a Thai chef for the first Deals. Assuming a chain is established, the aim is to have all the food prepared and dispatched from a team operating in one central kitchen.

Deals will be open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It will serve international cuisine, and dinner with wine should cost around £14 a head. Only three other restaurants are being allowed in the Chelsea Harbour development area, all of which will be more expensive.

The company is already looking at other sites in London and is considering opening a Deals in Bristol.

Investors are being asked to subscribe for 2.3 million ordinary 5p shares at £1 each. The minimum investment is £1,000. The minimum subscription is £800,000, and this is being underwritten by the sponsors, Guidehouse Securities Ltd, so the issue will go ahead.

The offer opens at 10am on Monday and the initial closing date is February 16. No dividends will be paid in the first year. The directors will review the situation annually after March 31, 1989.

As the tax year draws to a close, there is usually a surge of interest in BES. To help you find your way through the maze, the table details what is currently on offer.

Amanda Pardoe



Chopstick quartet on the Latchmead board: Edward Lim, Toby Parker, Lord Lichfield and Christian Hoyer Miller

BES UPDATE

CURRENT PROSPECTUS ISSUES

Company	Activity	Sponsor	Issue cost mls/mx	Amount sought mls/mx	Mile lev	Closing date
Ashford International Hotel	Hotel	Capital Ventures	10%/8%	\$4.5m/\$2m	\$3,000	Feb 19
Cavendish Retail	Shops	Smith & Williamson	8%/6%	\$2m/\$7.5m	\$2,500	Feb 12
County Resort Hotels*	Hotels	Johnson Fry	17.1%/8.5%	\$1m/\$4.5m	\$1,000	Feb 15
Edinburgh Tankers	Shipping	Johnson Fry	7.6%/na	no min/\$1m	\$1,100	Feb 19
Seasons Garden Centres	Garden centres	Charney Securities	24.2%/8.7%	\$655,000/\$4.4m	\$500	Feb 3
Albania Property & Construction	Property development/secure contractor	Guidehouse	na/7%	no min/\$5m	\$1,100	Remaining open
Black Barony	Hotel	Centreway	27%/10%	\$500,000/\$1.075m	\$501	Remaining open
Corinthian Construction & Development	Property development/secure contractor	Charney Securities	22.6%/8.6%	\$500,000/\$5m	\$500	Feb 5
Fowkes Hotel	Hotel	Johnson Fry	13.5%/8.5%	\$1.35m/\$5m	\$1,050	Jan 31
International Financial Strategies	Specialist consultancy	Charney Securities	34%/10%	\$380,000/\$1m	\$500	Feb 5
Residential Property Development	Property development/secure agent	London & Sussex Securities	46%/13%	\$210,000/\$1.38m	\$720	Remaining open
IN THE PIPELINE						
Latchmead Group plc	Restaurants	Guidehouse	To be advised	\$900,000/\$2.3m	\$1,000	Feb 16

* Expenses on County Resort Hotel reduce to 11.7% and 7.6% respectively when taking into account the £600,000 invested by Charney Securities, and to be invested by Resort Hotels Ltd

CURRENT FUNDS AND SCHEMES

Fund or scheme	Investment policy	Manager	Amount sought mls/mx	Subscription period	Mile lev
Third Abbey BES Syndicate	General	Hodgeson Martin	Not stated	Nov 27, 1987, to Feb 29, 1988	\$3,000
The Centreway Business Expansion Scheme	General	Centreway	Not stated/\$1.5m	December to full subscription	\$2,500
3rd Johnson Fry Business Expansion Scheme	General	Johnson Fry	Not stated	To March 1988	\$1,000
2nd Johnson Fry Management and Leveraged Buy-out	Management buy-outs	Johnson Fry	Not stated	To March 1988	\$5,000
Merca Venture Capital Scheme	Regional (Midlands, West and South-West)	Merca Venture Capital	Not stated	To March 1988	\$3,000
Sti Lazard Development Capital Fund	Balanced portfolio	Lazard Development Capital	\$1.5m/ not stated	To Feb 8	\$2,000
IN THE PIPELINE					
The Seventh Alpha Business Expansion Fund	General	Alpha	\$500,000/ not stated	To Mar 25	\$2,000

It's the last laugh on women drivers

Women drivers are the subject of many a coney joke. But the last laugh in financial terms often lies with the women, as they can enjoy cheaper motor insurance.

According to several leading firms of motor insurers, this is not necessarily because women are better drivers. It is because many of them use their cars infrequently and for short trips made outside the rush-hour traffic. Consequently, they are less exposed to accidents.

This week Bishopsgate Insurance joined the band of companies offering discounts to women. It is offering reduced premium rates and various benefits, such as legal services cover and a free Green Card, to women drivers between the ages of 25 and 74 who take out a Lady MotorCare policy.

To top aboard Lady MotorCare, the woman driver must not have made a motor insurance claim or been involved in any loss in the past three years, and she should have had no motoring conviction in the past five years.

On top of this there are restrictions on the likely use of the car, and this is where the crunch comes. Lady MotorCare is aimed at the woman who makes little use of the car - ideally she should do no more than 5,000 miles a year on average. What is more, the car must not be used for commuting to or from work.

Although the vehicle must be owned by and registered in the woman's name, two additional drivers can be included - the policyholder's husband and a second woman driver. Both these drivers must be between 25 and 74.

The question, however, is: Is it the cheapest policy? Unfortunately, it is impossible to give a clear answer. Who is offering the best deal will

depend on the particular set of circumstances just as with any driver.

To demonstrate the variety, Family Money asked a selection of companies for women to provide a quotation based on the following example: a 29-year-old female bank clerk who has been driving for nine years, holds a clean driving licence, has the maximum no-claims bonus and requires fully comprehensive insurance. Her car is a C-registered 1100 VW Golf and she lives in Reading, Berkshire.

General Accident, which offers preferential terms for women aged under 30, quoted an annual premium of £206. This figure applies if the insurance is for the woman and her husband, or the woman alone.

Legal & General, which gives a discount to all women drivers, quoted an annual rate of £187.60 for the woman alone, and Zurich Insurance came up with £183.20.

National Employers' Mutual, which is based in Swindon, Wiltshire, has, in common with Bishopsgate, a policy exclusively for women - the Lady Drivers' Policy. Using our example, it quoted £183.42 for the woman and £203.80 for any driver.

In each of these cases travel to work and unlimited mileage is permitted. Bishopsgate, whose Lady MotorCare is less flexible, quoted £204.80 for the woman, her husband and a second woman driver.

Bishopsgate points out, however, that its policy favours women drivers of older cars.

Women drivers are not Bishopsgate's only target. It has also introduced MotorCare 55, for drivers aged over 55.

AP

Justice by degrees

Victims in personal injury cases who fight a tough battle for compensation over several years may finally get their just deserts in what are becoming increasingly large sums in damages.

But they could find themselves at the start of a new nightmare - how to manage the sudden advent of a lump sum amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The problem was highlighted last summer when 25-year-old Samir About-Hosn was awarded record damages of £1,032 million in the High Court, the highest award ever made in a British court.

Summing up at the end of the case, Mr Justice Hirst lamented the "once and for all basis" on which the court was obliged to compensate the plaintiff.

At present, he said, there was no scope for a "continuous assessment either of need or loss of earnings" to be decided from time to time as Samir's future unfolds.

In the United States, however, victims of road accidents or medical negligence may



More than a million all at once: Samir About-Hosn

Next Tuesday nearly 100 insurance industry representatives, lawyers, tax experts, and others will meet for a special conference in the City of London, co-sponsored by Lloyd's brokers Hogg Robinson and Gardner Mountain plc, which have set up a company specifically to explore advice on and promote the idea of structured compensation.

Peter Vivian-Neal and Julian Radcliffe, its directors, say that although the benefits of structured compensation can be achieved if victims or their relatives invest the lump sum in a suitable life assurance contract, this course is rarely followed.

A recent survey by the Canadian insurance industry of large cash awards for personal injury showed that in the first year, 50 per cent of the recipients had nothing left. In the second year 70 per cent had nothing left and by the fifth year, 90 per cent had nothing left.

The idea, which is cost-effective only for larger awards of, for instance, more than £100,000, envisages replacing the traditional lump sum payment with an annuity funded by the defendant, normally via its insurance com-

pany. It can work only where liability is not contested.

One big obstacle to the scheme was the tax position. The traditional lump sum is treated for tax purposes as capital, although any interest from it is taxable as income.

The 425-member Association of British Insurers has succeeded, however, in winning Inland Revenue approval so that structured compensation can now be provided so as to avoid liability to income tax. Liability was previously a disincentive to the idea.

The scheme, its promoters maintain, benefits the victim whose long-term security is covered, and it reduces the chances of the award being dissipated.

For the defendants and insurers, it enables them to provide the same money at less cost than if it was in a lump sum, by an estimated 10 or 20 per cent.

The biggest hurdle remains, however - persuading plaintiffs to accept the new arrangement.

The Medical Defence Union believes insurers will have

Looking to lawyers for support

an uphill battle. It has offered annuities for years. But the union, the largest insurer of the medical profession, is regarded as having an interest. And for this reason, it says, plaintiffs will not accept the annuities.

But with the blessing of the Inland Revenue behind them, insurers are now looking to the legal profession for support. No legislation is needed, only a change in attitude.

And the Lord Chancellor's present review of civil justice, they say, could provide the very vehicle for that.

Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

BRIEFING

Credit notes

The National Consumer Council told the Monopolies and Mergers Commission this week that credit card interest rates should be cut. It also noted there is scarcely any price competition between bank credit card companies.

The council says it is impossible to justify the rates charged. Since 1979 bank credit card interest has, on average, been 14 per cent higher than the banks' base lending rates, and often double. Set against this, the credit card operators' risks have been reduced by a number of factors, including greater efficiency, higher rejection rates and more insurance against inability to pay.

The council criticizes the rates charged by some retailers and is also critical of consumers, many of whom it believes are ignorant of the true cost of credit.



about, normally costs from £12.75 to £11.99, but it comes via GRE for £5.50 for one or £15.99 for two. GRE says it is responding to public pressure following the ban on polystyrene foam in furniture.

The Crash factor

Not surprisingly, the year end figures produced by the Association of Investment Trust Companies shows the effect of last October's stock market crash. Based on share price return, the average investment trust showed a fall of 8 per cent at the end of 1987. However, there were still increases over three, five and seven years, of 45 per cent, 146 per cent and 243 per cent respectively.

Unit trusts, in comparison, showed a fall of 6 per cent at the end of the year, and increases over the other periods of 40 per cent, 133 per cent and 190 per cent. Investment trust funds specializing in the UK market succeeded in beating the FTA All-Share Index, with a return of 13.4 per cent for the year. The top-performing UK specialist fund was Temple Bar Investment Trust, with a share price return of 18.3 per cent over the year. A monthly savings scheme may be introduced for Temple Bar investors this year.

No-claims bonus for the healthy

A new health insurance plan has been launched this week giving no-claims discounts to the hale and hearty who do not claim on their policies.

This mimicking of motoring policies was first tried by Cymru on its medical policies, and it is not surprising to see it on the policies of the Prime Organisation as many of the people involved in this new company left Crown to set it up.

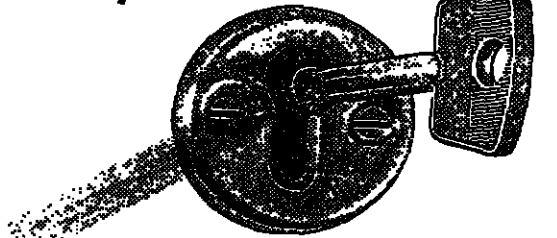
Giving a no-claims discount means that we cut the number of small claims. People with small claims of £30 or £40 find that it is not worthwhile claiming and they keep their costs and cover down," said Arthur Childs, product development director of Prime.

The policies, which come in a standard and super version, offer half-price cover after seven years and the chance to make further savings for non-smokers and those who pay the first £100 of any claim. Cover for a man aged 30 to 39 and his family costs from £268.50 to £472.10 a year for basic cover and from £380.70 to £674.40 for super cover, which includes worldwide travel insurance and membership of a legal and home crisis helpline. Details: Prime Organisation plc, 4 Bridge Street, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8BZ (0872 386060).

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Smoke detectors at a discount are being offered to all Guardian Royal Exchange policyholders. Formerly only those with home policies qualified for the offer, but now anyone with a GRE policy can take it up. A Homewatch detector, which gives a loud alarm when there is smoke

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LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

All alone and fighting back

The habitat of the solo solicitor is becoming increasingly unfriendly but as Frances Gibb explains, this endangered species is turning on its hunters



There is an endangered species in the solicitors' profession: the solo practitioner. There are some 3,000 to 3,500 solo practitioners, or one-man firms, in England and Wales. Although they account for fewer than 10 per cent of all practising solicitors, they make up roughly one-third of all firms, and are probably the breed of solicitor most commonly met by the public. In the last decade they have grown in number by 51 per cent.

But in recent months solo practitioners have come under attack. The Law Society plans tighter controls on how they operate, and in response, solo practitioners are mobilising to defend themselves, to a large extent through the British Legal Association, a small but rapidly growing body of solicitors' firms.

It started with the Law Observer, the public watchdog on how the Law Society deals with complaints about solicitors. Last year he questioned whether the "one-person practice might not be becoming something of an anachronism".

Then in October the President of the Law Society, Derek Bradbeer, told the society's conference in Vienna that one-man firms were the butt of a certain amount of adverse publicity and were responsible for most of the claims paid out of the society's compensation fund.

Out of a recent sample of complaints to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau, 20 per cent referred to one-man firms and out of a sample of matters before the bureau's adjudication committee, 34 per cent concerned solo practitioners.

He cited other figures: of a recent sample of cases before the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal, 48 per cent related to solo practitioners; and taking only tribunal cases which involved dishonesty or deceit, 40 per cent related to one-man firms.

Derek Bradbeer acknowledged such statistics can be highly misleading. The majority of claims on the compensation fund relate to the defaults of one-man firms because where a partner similarly defaults, the society's indemnity fund carries at least part of the risk, with the compensation fund picking up only the uninsured amount.

None the less the Law Society must take steps, he said, to maintain the public's confidence in such solicitors and protect the profession's name.

He said the society had set up a committee to consider "means of assisting" one-man firms and he spelled out some possible measures: such solicitors might be encouraged to enter into partnership or other arrangements for sharing facilities with other firms.

Another measure - aimed particularly at younger firms - might be to call for half-yearly accountants' reports for the first three years of a new practice.

Concerns are not only being voiced within the profession. Some building societies, which operate panels of approved solicitors for house buyers, are not happy about accepting the one-man firm on to such panels.

The Town and Country Building Society has decided not to recruit any more of them to its panel, while happy to keep those it already has; while another society, Chemical Bank Home Loans, says it has reluctantly had to exclude one-man firms from its panel, because of problems of insurance cover for them.

Life is certainly not easy for the one-man firm and it is getting no easier with soaring overheads, the proliferation of new statutes and new technology.

Those in practice on their own account have the satisfaction of being answerable to no one but the client. Many choose the solicitors' profession just because it enables them to work in this way; by temperament, they are individualists, best suited to operating on their own.

It also can be an ideal form of practice for married women with children; some set up in an office from or near home, and in this way can combine a career with children.

But the other side of the coin is the enormous strain of having no one else to consult with. Two-thirds of solo practitioners do not employ assistant solicitors.

Stanley Best, a one-man firm in Torrington, Devon, and a former chairman of the British Legal Association, says: "You have no one to discuss things with or to stand in for you when you are out, as I have to be quite a lot as I specialise in litigation. When you are away, things mount up like an unexploded time bomb. You just manage to clear the desk and when you come back it's groaning again." As for holidays, he says these are

impossible unless, like him, you remain at the end of a telephone.

Another solo practitioner in central London said: "You are vulnerable to the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. Holidays are difficult and the workload can easily become excessive - there is no holiday. To keep up with legal developments could be extremely costly unless one had access to a legal library close by, he added.

But for the client, there are still many advantages in the one-man firm. Many clients prefer the one-to-one approach, he added. "The individual is not shunted down the line, down a conveyor belt to some clerk 10 paces removed from the partner; the client gets the individual attention of the solicitor all the time."

In rural parts of the country, too, some people would have no access to legal advice were it not for the one-man firm. Their demise would leave large tracts of the country, as well as less popular inner city wastelands, uncovered by legal services.

Another problem such firms face is the trend of specialisation. As law becomes more complex and diverse, it is more difficult for the general practitioner - the equivalent of the family doctor who does a little of everything - to survive.

Already there are recognized panels of solicitors who do work in specific fields such as child care law and mental health. And the Government is proposing that only members of legal aid panels should be able to do legal aid work.

Andrew Keenan, a one-man firm specialising in criminal legal aid, sees a future for one-man firms only as specialists. But Best, although himself a specialist in professional negligence litigation, disagrees. In rural areas, it would be impossible for most one-man firms to survive unless they undertook a range of work.

So what is to be done? The British Legal Association, whose numbers have been boosted in recent months by some 200 one-man firms anxious about the future, are determined to oppose proposals that they should form partnerships or have their books inspected frequently. The issue will be a key topic of debate at their next conference in March.

"Solicitors have got to make their voices heard on this and other issues", Stanley Best says. "Many one-man firms do not want to be pushed into partnerships. They have chosen to be on their own because they do not like the materialistic attitude increasingly common in the bigger firms. To suggest, as people are doing, that they are on their own because they are not acceptable to others is absurd."

Such a solicitor, the B.L.A. says, "in his grubby office does far more for the maintenance of justice than the wealthy solicitor in his palatial surroundings".

Law Report January 16 1988

Material fact is one which might influence judgment of tribunal

Saker v Secretary of State for Social Services
Before Lord Justice Lloyd, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Staughton
[Judgment January 15]

A fact was a material fact for the purposes of reviewing a medical decision under section 110 of the Social Security Act 1975 if it was a fact which would have influenced the judgment of the body making the decision in the sense that it was one to which it would have wished to direct its mind.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the claimant, Edward John Saker, from the decision of a social security commissioner on October 6, 1986, which set aside a decision of a medical appeal tribunal dated January 28, 1985, on the ground that the tribunal was not entitled to review a medical board decision of February 4, 1981, on the claimant's claim for industrial disablement benefit.

Mr Robin Allen for the claimant, Mr Duncan Ouseley for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that in March 1980 the claimant had suffered an injury at work and fractured the head of the radius of his right arm. In February 1981, on his claim for industrial disablement benefit, a medical board had assessed his disability because of the injury at 3 per cent for life.

When making up their minds they should be aware of the fact that it was open to them to subscribe to the settlement scheme and at the same time avail themselves of the arbitration procedure which his Lordship had announced in December.

That would enable such a plaintiff to contend that he or she was entitled to compensation under the scheme or to question the amount, on the basis that his or her particular injuries had been erroneously assessed.

That arbitration procedure would, with the consent of the Lord Chief Justice, be undertaken by the court, and Lilly would not be involved.

It therefore followed that the arbitration process would not involve any confrontation with Lilly, its sole purpose was to discover whether, as a result of a revised assessment undertaken by the court, a particular plaintiff was entitled to a share or larger share of the total sum made available in the settlement.

His Lordship had also been asked to clarify the position of various solicitors involved in the settlement. They included the L.B.A. solicitors, the sub-leading firms acting for the majority of the Open plaintiffs

and of which, he contended, the medical board had been unaware so that it had reached its decision in ignorance of a material fact.

The appeal tribunal relied on two documents which had come into existence between the commissioner before the first board and the review board, but there had been a letter before the first board which referred to both conditions.

Under section 112 of the Act there was no appeal to the commissioner save on a point of law. The question whether in any particular case there was fresh evidence justifying a review was a pure question of fact. Since it was common ground before the tribunal that there was fresh evidence it was not surprising it reached the view it did. The question was whether in doing so it could be said that it misconstrued section 110, that it applied an erroneous test.

His Lordship could not accept that a fact could only be a material fact if it would have made a difference to the result. A fact was material for the purposes of section 110 if it was a fact which would have influenced the judgment of the medical board.

The correct test was whether the medical board was in ignorance of a fact to which it would have wished to direct its mind. That was essentially the test applied by the appeal tribunal.

In his Lordship's conclusion, the tribunal was entitled to find that there was a fact of which the board had been ignorant, namely, the confirmed or definite diagnosis of cervical spondylosis, and there was no ground on which the commissioner could disturb the first part of its decision.

As to the second part of the decision, the appeal tribunal had given no reasons for reaching the same conclusion as the medical board despite the new evidence, and it was conceded that that was an error of law.

Accordingly, the case would be remitted to a differently constituted medical appeal tribunal, the secretary of state having undertaken, in order to meet the difficulty of a complete rehearing in accordance with regulation 36(4) of the Social Security (Adjudication) Regulations (SI 1986 No 2218), not to submit to that tribunal that there were no grounds for a review under section 110.

LORD JUSTICE NICHOLLS, concurring, said that a material fact was one which, had it been known, would have called for serious consideration by the board and might well have affected its decision.

Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mr Christopher Dalton, Battersea; Treasury Solicitor.

Criticism of Open solicitors unjustified

Davies (Joseph Owen) v Eli Lilly and Others (No 3)
Before Mr Justice Hirst
[Judgment January 14]

Criticism of solicitors involved in the Open litigation for accepting a term that those representing clients in the settlement should not act for potential Open plaintiffs outside the settlement was unjustified.

Mr Justice Hirst said in the Queen's Bench Division, in clarifying the position of those solicitors, that such a term was in no way a breach of the Solicitors' Practice Rules.

Mr John Melville Williams, QC, for the plaintiffs; Mr Jonathan Playford, QC, and Mr Michael Spencer for the Lilly defendants; Mr Justin Fenwick for the government defendants.

MR JUSTICE HIRST said he welcomed the announcement that the settlement with those Open plaintiffs (numbering over thousands) who had accepted Lilly's offer was to be effective and that they would receive substantial interim payments.

His Lordship urged those 200 or so plaintiffs who had not yet responded to the offer to do so during the next three weeks in their own best interests.

When making up their minds they should be aware of the fact that it was open to them to subscribe to the settlement scheme and at the same time avail themselves of the arbitration procedure which his Lordship had announced in December.

That would enable such a plaintiff to contend that he or she was entitled to compensation under the scheme or to question the amount, on the basis that his or her particular injuries had been erroneously assessed.

That arbitration procedure would, with the consent of the Lord Chief Justice, be undertaken by the court, and Lilly would not be involved.

It therefore followed that the arbitration process would not involve any confrontation with Lilly, its sole purpose was to discover whether, as a result of a revised assessment undertaken by the court, a particular plaintiff was entitled to a share or larger share of the total sum made available in the settlement.

His Lordship had also been asked to clarify the position of various solicitors involved in the settlement. They included the L.B.A. solicitors, the sub-leading firms acting for the majority of the Open plaintiffs

and some 200 other firms who had accepted the terms of the offer on behalf of their clients.

Part of the terms of the offer had been that the financial details, both globally and individually, should be kept confidential.

There was nothing unusual in a term of that kind, nor in seeking to ensure that such confidentiality was preserved by proposing limitations on the solicitors acting for persons with a similar claim to whom the settlement did not apply.

His Lordship had been informed that public criticism had been advanced against the solicitors for declining to act for potential Open plaintiffs who were outside the scope of the settlement.

It was commonplace for solicitors, and indeed other professional people, to have to decline to represent, or to continue to represent, a potential or actual client: that could arise because of a possible conflict of interest between the two, or alternatively, because of a possible conflict between those whom the solicitor would owe to each if he acted for both.

The dangers of a solicitor opening himself to such conflicts had frequently been

emphasised by the courts; see, for example, the Court of Appeal decision in *Moody v Cox and Hatt* ([1917] 2 Ch 71).

In the present case, the solicitors' perception was of a possible conflict between their duty to their existing Open clients to negotiate, and, if possible, to conclude the settlement under the seal of confidentiality, and their duty to potential new clients to give all available information.

They were also anxious to maintain their obligation of strict confidentiality relating to documents disclosed by Lilly on discovery solely within the ambit of the actions which fell within the co-ordinated arrangements.

That was not in any way unreasonable and his Lordship was not impressed by the suggestion that it was in some way a breach of the Solicitors' Practice Rules.

Solicitors: *Fazzone Napier; Davies Arnold & Cooper; Treasury Solicitor.*

Correction
In *R v C.A.A., Ex parte Emery Air Freight Corporation* (*The Times* January 13) the word "defaulter" in line 11 of the first paragraph should have read "defaulter".

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Rugby Union's multinational theatre opens with England needing players of character against character players of France

Cusworth tackles a tricky role

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

What do you say about a team that apparently has so much talent it can afford to be profligate about whom it discards; a team that is bigger, faster, stronger than any other in the northern hemisphere and whose vital components have been together for so long that they must be as familiar to each other as husband and wife?

Unfortunately, we are not talking about England, but about their opponents at the Parc des Princes today, who go into the opening match of this season's five nations' championship as runaway favourites. For France, second only to New Zealand in world terms (since the presence of South Africa as a world power can be discounted for non-sporting reasons), even history is on their side.

In the past 20 seasons England have won their opening championship match only four times, and that does not include 1978, one of only two occasions on which they have been to Paris as a starter. England lost 15-6 that year in circumstances of considerable gallantry; they used both replacements and played nearly all the second half with Cowling, the Leicester prop, as a passenger because of torn shoulder muscles.

It was a display of character, the like of which we must hope for today. The ingredients of victory may be hard to discern but it would be good to leave the Parc having seen some prospect of future quality in a side containing three new cubs.

Whether we do so depends greatly upon how England's half-backs survive. Cusworth carries in his kitbag of memories a recollection of playing stand-off half in England's 1982 side who won in Paris (only one other member of the side, Winterbottom, has won a big international away from home). Melville has endeavoured to erase the memory of the injury in 1986 which threatened to terminate his career.

Jacques Fouroux, I have little doubt, has instructed his men to test the mettle of England's halves and of

Dooley, whom the French must see as England's main source of possession at the lineout. There is an onus, therefore, upon the back row to ensure that both areas get loose possession so that England can profit by the footballing back division they have picked.

In all this we should not assume that France are without their weaknesses. Normally one would never refer to Sella in this context but that great centre has played so little rugby this season I find it hard to believe he can be entirely match-hard, too, to see what the French make of Probyn at tight-head prop.

Fouroux expressed some surprise when he heard England had dropped Pearce but anything that prompts questions from the opposition is to be approved. Moreover, Probyn has been dedicated enough to build himself into an international proposition; he may not have played in the World Cup but he was one of those who accepted the revised training regime wholeheartedly.

Can he make life awkward enough for Ondarts and Dubroca to disconcert the French scrum? What will Owen Doyle, the referee, make of his angular style of packing? Will his ability in the loose extend to the defensive chores required when the French front row combine with their flankers to try to dominate the high ground in midfield?

This is where Roger Untley, England's assistant coach, believes the game has to be won. "The French like to play going forward, using their physical presence in midfield as a base for the wings. They use the first area to dictate the second area. Midfield dominance is all-important and, if we are going to do anything, that is where we have to do it."

This places a huge burden upon the shoulders of Simms and Carling, the centres. Neither is a physically big man — nothing like the presence of Sella and the muscular



The man who had a ball in Paris: Cusworth was in the England side who won there in 1982

Andrieu — but both tackle their weight; Cusworth will have to do the same when Mesnel and the big French back row come running at him.

It is one of rugby's myths that Cusworth is a non-tackling stand-off but, in a head-on collision, he is bound to come off second best because he is only 5ft 6in and not much more than 11st. Thus he becomes more of a lumpet than a rock, hoping he can hold up the opposition long

enough for help to arrive; besides, he has been selected more for what he does with the ball than against it.

England must trim their coat according to their cloth. Having picked a side who can play rugby, it would be folly, if conditions permit, not to try to do so. Some good kicking from Webb, who re-treated to Taunton this last week with two Adidas balls — the type used in today's match for practice, would not come amiss either, though I

doubt if Taunton provided the wall-to-wall noise of the Parc.

The weather yesterday, when both teams had a light runout, was damp and cold. The French are seldom at their best in January, despite the fact that they have an international under their belt this season, against Romania in November (when the sun shone so much it was almost like April). But whatever their level of attainment today, it should be too much for England.

Captain who was destined to lead

By Chris Thur

Gary Callander, the Scotland captain who makes his five nations championship debut against Ireland in Dublin today, was groomed for captaincy long before his illustrious predecessor, Colin Deans MBE, decided to call it a day.

Scottish Border priests have argued, anyway, that Callander was the better hooker as, they claimed, he had proved in the five nations battles between Callander's Kelso and Deans's Hawick. Although capped only once against Romania in 1984, Callander was appointed Scotland captain to Spain and France in 1985, when the then incumbent Deans declared himself unavailable.

His leadership qualities have always been recognized and, in his first appearance for the Scotland side last October, he led the team to a spectacular win over Newport.

Having spent 26 games on the Scottish bench since 1981, when he understated Deans for the games against Romania and Australia, Callander has developed both the fine virtue of patience and immense appetite for combat.

Not unexpectedly he regards the 1986 Scottish tour as the significant stage in the continuity process that brought Scotland to the top of the home countries hierarchy.

"It was an immensely tough tour. We've learnt a lot and it hurts us both physically and mentally. Many of the youngsters in the side today — Duncan, Tukalo and Craigmiles — were blooded during that tour. We have got to know each other better, learned to work for each other, help each other. That tour, the World Cup and the recent French tour to Scotland have all helped to build up a team spirit among the lads."

Like all his French, English, Welsh and Irish peers, Callander cherishes the prospect of playing in the five nations championship. "Of course I look forward to it. It is magic. We are really fortunate to have the five nations. It is, I am sure, the envy of all Blacks and Australia. The traditions of the competition are unique. And rugby without its traditions would mean very little."

Callander, aged 28, played for Kelso High School, but at the age of 17 he was drafted into Kelso's first team. Playing for Kelso at that age was, as he put it, a case of sheer survival.

Like Deans, Callander has always played at hooker since he made his debut for Kelso in 1976. He played for South Scotland, Scotland under-21 and was at the wrong end of a 44-4 drubbing in a big game against France in 1981.

Having reckoned that "history has a habit of making fools of those who make predictions" Callander, nevertheless, is eager to launch his men to a great championship debut to make his five nations start a memorable occasion.



Callander: eager for victory

Test of faith is a trying time for the untried

From Gerald Davies, Dublin

It would be a terrible shame, the taxi driver said, after all the recent fine weather, if the wind should suddenly change for the worse. He saw no reason why it should and Lansdowne Road will be seen at its best to welcome Scotland there this afternoon. All is fair, too, with both camps declaring that their injury worries lie behind them.

Will any lessons have been learned from last year's World Cup and, if so, will they be on view? By common consent Scotland carried the most convincing flag of all the four home countries in that tournament and, but for a loss of concentration and thus of the initiative, which gave them a drawn match against France, could well have reached the final.

Since then, because of injuries to players like Robertson, Tukalo and Rutherford and the retirement of their guiding light of a captain, Deans, and the powerful Milne from the front row, only eight players survive from their last match, against New Zealand in the World Cup.

Much will depend in the scrum on Callander, their new leader, whose second international this is, and Rowan, who won the last of his eight caps in 1985. Damien Cronin, the Bath lock, is the only new international. Behind him there is no shortage of experience of experts, where Jeffrey, Paxton and Calder are an immensely mobile back-row trio but whose effectiveness will depend on the tightness of those in front of them.

Behind these there is Roy Laidlaw, whose cunning and persistence around the base of the scrum have seen him score five tries against Ireland and helped him to become the most capped Scottish scrum half with 44 appearances.

It is outside him, if all is to be believed, that the greatest threat is imposed on Scotland's self-confidence. They have pondered so long and relied so much on Rutherford's influence at stand-off half that without him they have come to feel denuded.

Craigmiles, although protected by his scrum half, must none the less find within him the resources to stamp his own personality on the match. Scotland must hope that some of the

confidence with which both Hastings brothers, in particular, are so abundantly imbued, will rub off on him.

Ireland, with 11 players from their last World Cup match, have two new internationals in Philip Danaher, a full back in place of Hugo MacNeill after 34 internationals, and the Munster prop, John Fitzgerald, replacing what had come to appear as the almost permanent fixtures of Phil Orr, Fitzgerald and Kingston, the hooker, make their first appearances in the championship. Danaher, who has had hamstring problems but was declared fit to play yesterday, has had an impressive season so far.

Whereas Leizhan, the captain, and Anderson are gathering experience as a pair in the second row, the same cannot be said of the back three, where there is no such fragility in the back division, where there is a distinctly mature feel about the players, which will have greatly helped Jim Davidson, the coach, who took over the responsibility from Mick Doyle this season. Throughout the 1970s Davidson had helped coach the Ulster team, having had his grounding in the arts of rugby while a mature student at Loughborough Colleges in the mid-1960s.

At the beginning of a new season there is much that is in doubt about both teams. There are more question marks than certainties about all areas of play. Whether the strengths and weaknesses in the respective back divisions, it is up forward, especially in the scrum, that the foundation will be laid. It is here that confidence will arise. With so much that is untried, it will be presumptuous to attempt a prediction of the outcome.

The taxi driver felt supremely confident, as he would naturally be, of an Irish victory but at this stage you might just as well rest your judgement on the toss of a coin. Let us hope, after the buffeting of the reputation of British and Irish rugby took in the World Cup, that whatever happens this afternoon will go some way to restoring faith in our domestic game.

TODAY'S TEAMS IN DUBLIN

Ireland			Scotland		
P P Danaher	15	Full Back	A G Hastings	15	(Waterford)
T M Ringland	14	Right wing	M D F Duncan	14	(West of Scotland)
B J Mullin	13	Right centre	A V Tait	13	(Kilgobbin)
M J Gernan	12	Left centre	S Hastings	12	(Waterford)
K D Crossan	11	Left wing	G R T Baird	11	(Kilgobbin)
P M Dean	10	Stand off	R J Craigmiles	10	(Hawick)
M T Bradley	9	Scrum half	R J Laidlaw	9	(Jed-Forest)
J J Fitzgerald	1	Prop	D M B Sole	1	(Edinburgh Acad)
T J Kingston	2	Hooker	G J Callander	2	(Kelso)
D C Fitzgerald	3	Prop	N A Rowan	3	(Glasgow)
P M Matthews	6	Flanker	J Jeffrey	6	(Kilgobbin)
D G Lenihan	4	Lock	D B White	4	(Sale)
W A Anderson	5	Lock	D F Cronin	5	(Bath)
W Sexton	7	Flanker	F Calder	7	(Swansea)
M E Gibson	8	No 8	J A M Paxton	8	(Salisbury)

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FOOTBALL: WIMBLEDON'S MANAGER IS ALL THE BETTER FOR LEARNING FROM HIS PAST MISTAKES

Gould makes the haul to fame

By Clive White

When one looks at the contrasting fortunes of the blood brothers, Wimbledon and Watford, this season one has to ask why Bobby Gould made a much better job of following a legend than Dave Bassett did. The answer, Gould believes, is that, unlike Bassett, he had already acquainted himself with failure at the highest level.

"I am a better manager for having had the sack. Dave will have learnt more in six months at Watford than he did in 10 years at Wimbledon. I've no doubt when he looks back over his career he will agree," Gould said.

"Getting the sack hurts. You feel sorry for your family and the people close to you. When I was dismissed as manager at Coventry City on December 28, 1984, at 10 minutes past 10 in the morning I knew I had to resurrect myself. The fact that people didn't think I could was a great spur to me."

It is true that, when Gould succeeded Bassett at Wimbledon, people were filling over each other to lay bets on Wimbledon's demise, as much because of Gould's arrival as the gun's departure. More than that, two of their best players, Winterburn and Hodges, had been sold and there was the ominous defeat against Bassett's new charges on the opening day of the season. "I'd been given a second opportunity. Not many get that," he said.

He and Wimbledon were confronted with a similar problem to that which faced Watford in their second season in the first division under Graham Taylor, that of how to consolidate after an unbelievably good start. "I don't care what anybody says, Dave Bassett's most difficult time would have been his second

year in the first division," Gould said. "We will never know how Bassett would have tackled the problem but one doubts whether words like 'refinement' and 'ethics' would have become a part of his tactical talk. Similarly, it is unlikely that Bassett, no respecter of reputations, would have enlisted the help of Don Howe, the England coach, as Gould audaciously did. It was a case of who better to coach the Dons than the Dons."

"People have realized what the Wimbledon game is and now pack their defences with bodies. We needed more

Fashanu stays on
Wimbledon have persuaded John Fashanu and Lawrie Sanchez to sign new two-year contracts. Fashanu, who was wanted by West Ham United, Tottenham Hotspur, Watford and Derby County among others, was persuaded to stay by a deal worth about £2,000 a week.

refinement in the final third of the field and Don has helped to give us that. We've kept 75 per cent of the old Wimbledon and improved the other 25 per cent," Gould said.

"I say to lads in the lower divisions, 'If you really want to reach the top you've got to be prepared to work.'"

Gould, a firm believer in the POMC (Position of Maximum Opportunity) long held by Watford, said that he and Howe had contemplated what could be achieved with the system if top quality players were prepared to put in the same amount of work that the less gifted do. "If you had players who could fade the ball into channels instead of whacking

it you couldn't half make it happen," he said.

A commitment which has often overstepped the thin dividing line between foul and fair has been a hallmark of the Wimbledon style. Their shameful disciplinary record, though, reached a new low at Stamford Bridge on November 28 when Wimbledon earned one league point and 36 of a less beneficial kind.

"There was no more aggressive or competitive centre forward than me in my time but I knew the limits," Gould recalled. "The problem was that these players were never taught the professional ethics of the game. After that debacle, however, I was forced to introduce a strict code of conduct."

Since then Wimbledon have enjoyed a run of six successive victories. "So they can't turn round and tell me that I've stopped them from competing," Gould said. "I would like to think that this season the players have released themselves from Dave Bassett's shackles. The media bombardment of Bassett was unbelievable and perhaps the players got left behind. Don and I would like to believe that they are now taking credit for being bloody good players. And they can get better."

Gould believes that some of the incentive has been taken out of today's meeting with Watford at Plough Lane. It seems that the Wimbledon players were as disappointed as some of those of Watford that Bassett was not still in charge of the Hertfordshire club. After their recent run of success — they could go third in the table today — Gould says it will be the hardest test of his managerial career to ensure that his players keep their feet on the ground. One imagines that he does not expect the ball to do the same.



Gould: felt he had something to prove

Shaw back in the limelight

By Dennis Shaw

Gary Shaw, the Aston Villa forward who won the European Young Player of the Year in 1982, today attempts to resurrect his career after six knee operations.

Graham Taylor, the Villa manager, has recalled Shaw, aged 26, to face Ipswich Town at Villa Park, his first full senior game for 14 months. He was a key forward in the Villa team which won the first division championship and the European Cup in the early Eighties.

Meanwhile, Taylor has appointed John Ward as his assistant manager. Ward, aged 36, succeeded the late Brian Clough, who left Villa this week to take over at Watford.

● Oxford United are negotiating to sign the Soviet Union's World Cup defender, Vladimir Besonov, from Dynamo Kiev. Maurice Evans, the Oxford manager, hopes of bringing Besonov, aged 29, over for a month's trial.

● Robbie James, the Leicester City and Welsh international defender, is rejoining his former club, Swansea City, for a £35,000 transfer fee.

● The Charlton Athletic manager, Lennie Lawrence, is rewarding seven of his players for their improved form in the first division. Lawrence has signed contracts with seven of the team's recent efforts to climb clear of the relegation zone, will offer defenders Steve Thompson, Peter Shinnie, John Humphrey, Mark Reid, goalkeeper Bob Bolder, and midfield players Paul Morris and Colin Walsh pay rises.

● Wales will play three international matches against European opposition in the next 15 months. They meet Yugoslavia and will play Sweden twice.

● The Football Association have launched an inquiry into the possible involvement of a second division club in the FA Cup third round replay against non-league Sutton United on Tuesday. The Sutton goalkeeper, Trevor Roffey, was hit on the head and felled by a missile thrown from behind his goal during the pre-match warm up.

Match at Anfield attracts a world-wide audience

By Ian Ross

Liverpool's game against Arsenal at Anfield has attracted unprecedented world-wide interest. The match, which is expected to be watched by 45,000 spectators, will be shown in 10 countries, including France and Spain, and will be shown in highlight form in 40 others.

The game comes four days before the UEFA meeting in Monaco when the subject of lifting the ban on English clubs playing in the major European competitions is likely to be discussed.

Grobelaar, the Liverpool goalkeeper, will miss today's game after suffering a knee injury. The leg injury which ruled him out of both of the FA Cup games against Stoke City. His understudy, Hooper, keeps his place in an unchanged side.

Colin Harvey, manager of the champions, Everton, yesterday said he believed his side can still retain the title. Everton lie fifth in the first division, 16 points adrift of Liverpool.

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City pride precedes a record

By George Ace

There's nothing quite like a battle between the "big two" to stir Belfast's football supporters, and bumper gate receipts are anticipated from this afternoon's meeting at Windsor Park between the Smirnoff Irish League champions Linfield and Glentworth, their bitter rivals.

Linfield are chasing a record seventh successive title and are one point behind the Irish Cup holders after 12 matches. Glentworth have splintered along at the head of the pack, inconsistent in front of goal and depending heavily on their veteran goalkeeper, Alan Paterson.

Patterson, aged 32, has had 10 successive clean sheets and requires a further shut-out of two matches and 33 minutes to reach a record of 1,142 minutes held by Italy's renowned international, Dino Zoff. But that seems hardly important. "I don't mind if I fail to achieve a new record, but so long as we beat Linfield," Patterson says.

George Dunlop's goalkeeping has been a major factor in Linfield's barnstorming run, taking maximum points from their last six matches. Linfield have recorded an impressive record of 18 from their last six outings and Dunlop conceded just two goals during those matches, one at Coleraine and the other at home to Bangor.

There is no question that the start lists for the Monte Carlo rally this year are not very exciting and that is why people are being drawn to the rally. The rally, which is the most exciting of the year, will be held in the Monte Carlo circuit.

There is a very real danger that the rally will be a disaster. The rally is the most exciting of the year, and it is the most exciting of the year. The rally is the most exciting of the year, and it is the most exciting of the year.

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McNamee bows out as Cash turns up the heat

By Rex Bellamy
Tennis Correspondent
Melbourne

Paul McNamee's career as a circuit professional ended last night on the Centre Court at Flinders Park, April 33, the one-time Wimbledon and Australian doubles champion and Davis Cup stalwart was beaten 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 by Pat Cash in the Australian championships.

The on-court interviews after the match were delayed by a long ovation for McNamee. This usually talkative man was almost speechless, anyway, such was the emotion boiling within him. He and Cash, both Melbourne men, are close friends and the Wimbledon champion paid tribute to McNamee for helping him "along the way."

Cash had already said McNamee's compliment of playing a mercilessly superb match, dominated by the younger man's serving and volleying. Cash gave 100 per cent, he said, because he knew his friend would not want it any other way. McNamee's farewell — playing Cash in Melbourne's proud new stadium — had an apostrophe that might have been scripted.

Cash was among the eight players of each sex to advance to the respective last 16 on a day when, shortly after noon, the temperature in the Centre Court was 100°F in the shade and 135°F in the open. The court surface approached 140°F and the promenades were soft to the feet. Tennis should always be played outdoors in sunshine, but this was a bit much.

Todd Witsken, of Indiana, who unexpectedly beat Henri Leconte, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4, said there was not enough time during changovers to do all that needed to be done to keep body heat down. "My socks were soaking, sliding around in my shoes. But I didn't have time to change them," he said.

Ivan Lendl, who beat Mark Woodford, said: "I tried not to stand in one spot because it was burning my feet. But as long as you kept moving, the downward heat was more of a problem." During changovers Woodford poured water over the court in front of him and then on his head. He also took his hat off for a spell, early in the third set, and

Cash reprieve

Pat Cash gained a reprieve yesterday from a \$10,000 fine imposed by the Men's International Professional Tennis Council when the players' body admitted they had made a mistake in calculating his total of fines for on-court misbehaviour over the past year.

Cash said that "ruined" him for the rest of the match.

Spectators were wary of hot seats, and busy with anti-sunburn lotion. As a symbol of the kind of day it was, a photographer recorded the spectacle of a fried egg on the Centre Court. For the next challenge — against Sylvia Hanika, whose coach, Mike Estep, coached Navratilova during the golden years.

Evert played Patty Fendick, a practical joker from California, who instantly took the initiative and, later, took a 5-1 lead. Fendick played an excellent first set, taking advantage of Evert's shaky start, but could not maintain her form whereas Evert improved and exposed the deficiencies of Fendick's backhand.

Other than Witsken, the men's winners to note were two Dutchmen — Michiel Schapers and Manno Ooster. The Dutch are benefiting from the help of Stan Francker, the former Australian national coach — and presumably the best tennis coach ever to emerge from Surinam.

RESULTS FROM MELBOURNE

NEWS: SINGLES: Third round: 1. Lendl (USA) 6-3, 6-3, 6-1; 2. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 3. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 4. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 5. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 6. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 7. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 8. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 9. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 10. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 11. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 12. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 13. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 14. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 15. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 16. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 17. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 18. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 19. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 20. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 21. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 22. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 23. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 24. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 25. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 26. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 27. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 28. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 29. Witsken (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; 30. 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Bulstrode's own shareholders block QPR deal

By Dennis Signy

David Bulstrode, the chairman of Queens Park Rangers since June, has had his £7.5 million offer to buy the club from Marler Estates - the property company of which he is also chairman - blocked by three powerful shareholders.

At an extraordinary general meeting of Marler Estates yesterday, 64 shareholders voted in favour of the sell-off plan and only three against, but the three included David Thompson, the major shareholder in Marler with 28 per cent. Thompson's representative at the meeting said he was preparing to make a better offer for QPR.

Thompson, aged 51, is a businessman who owns 85 per

cent of Windsor Racecourse. Racing, rugby and football are his big sporting interests.

He intends to look at the QPR set up over the next few days and then make a proposition to Bulstrode and the Marler board. Although he sold half his shares in Hillsdown Holdings last year he still retains 15 per cent and is a director and major shareholder.

Bulstrode was clearly disappointed with the outcome of the meeting. His immediate response was: "This is tragic for Rangers to be put into a period of uncertainty again."

When Bulstrode took over from Jim Gregory at Rangers

on May 29 last year he promised supporters that he would separate it from the property company, which also owns Chelsea's ground at Stamford Bridge and Craven Cottage, the home of Fulham. Before that there was considerable opposition to his plan with Gregory to merge Fulham, where Bulstrode was then chairman, with QPR as Fulham Park Rangers.

Before Christmas Bulstrode announced that another of his companies, Chaseglade plc, had exchanged contracts with Marler and SB Property Company Limited, the subsidiary that paid Gregory £5.8 million for QPR, to buy the club.

The proposal was a £6 million cash deal, with SB additionally keeping £1.5 million in shares in Chaseglade. Bulstrode was to pay a deposit of £300,000 and then have until March 31, 1989 to pay the balance. He intended floating QPR shares on the stock market during that time and promised to put at least £1 million of his own money into the club.

No prior notice of opposition to the Bulstrode proposals had been given.

Once again the future of the three west London clubs, Rangers, Chelsea and Fulham, now inextricably linked through the involvement of Marler Estates, seems to have been thrown into the balance.

Rangers must wait and see whether David Thompson can persuade Marler shareholders to sell to him and then discover what plans he might have for the ground and the football club. The Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates is currently trying to raise enough money to buy the freehold of Stamford Bridge to allow a redevelopment of the site and secure the future of the club. Fulham, now owned by a consortium of businessmen led by Jimmy Hill, only hold a short term lease on Craven Cottage.

Clubs summoned on membership

By John Goodbody

The Football League and the Government are to interview at least eight clubs - including two from the first division - that have failed to satisfy the agreement over club membership schemes.

The clubs are Southampton, Wimbledon, Barnsley, Fulham, Darlington, Tranmere Rovers, Wrexham and Scarborough. The provisional dates for the interviews are February 4 at the Department of the Environment for the southern clubs and March 21 at Old Trafford for those from the north.

The clubs will have to explain why they have failed either to have membership schemes for 50 per cent of home spectator accommodation, or have not provided written evidence from their local police that this could increase hooliganism.

Chelsea had originally been on the list, but they have protested that they have received police clearance.

With League clubs hoping to be readmitted to next season's European competitions, the Football League is anxious to show UEFA, the European governing body, that it is doing everything it can to reduce the chances of crowd violence.

In October the League, the Football Association and representatives of the police and the Government discussed the controversial membership scheme, which was originally agreed in February 1986 to cover 50 per cent of each ground's capacity.

However, due to a misunderstanding, the clubs began working to a far smaller proportion, namely 50 per cent of home spectator accommodation, although several local police forces still advised many clubs in writing that membership schemes even at this level might provoke violence, particularly by causing a late rush of spectators.

Coe races in from the cold to get on track for Seoul

By Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent

Sebastian Coe leaves today for seven weeks' warm-weather training in Florida, punctuated with at least two indoor races, as part of his winter preparation towards an unprecedented third Olympic 1,500 metres gold medal next October.

That aim means that Coe has cut back on some of his work as vice-chairman of the Sports Council, but if he wins another Olympic gold in Seoul - and no one but Coe has ever won two successive Olympic 1,500m - then he would have proved himself with the perfect culmination of a sporting career, and could be on the point of departure for a political one.

Coe, who has not raced since June last year due to injury, will definitely run two

3,000m indoor races: at the Vitalis meeting in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on February 13; and at the Los Angeles Times meeting at Inglewood, California, seven days later. He has the option then of competing in the United States championships the following week at Madison Square Garden, New York.

In the past, Coe has been wary of running indoors on anything less than 200-metre circuits, like the ones at Cosford and Kelvin Hall, which are eight laps to the mile. But he has, in the case of East Rutherford, at least chosen the best surface and widest bend of the board tracks on the north American circuit. The New Jersey track at the Meadowlands is 10 laps to the mile, while most of the other tracks are 11.

"If I were running for a 3,000m world record, I wouldn't tackle it indoors, I'd probably go to New Zealand at this time of year," Coe said yesterday. "But this is an opportunity to break the training routine."

A runner of Coe's status would probably command more than £8,000 per race in the United States, and he should reasonably expect, even in the middle of his winter strength training, to be more successful than Steve Ovett was in his first transatlantic indoor.

Coe is a more-than-competent 3,000m regular. He has been a regular at the distance at Cosford, and won the AAA indoor championship in his best time of 7min 54.32sec two years ago.

Odsal's future in doubt

By Martin Seabury

Odsal stadium, the vast bowl on the outskirts of Bradford, could return to its origins as a rubbish tip, despite the injection of £4 million over the last three years.

Celebrated as the sports stadium of the future when it opened in 1934, Odsal, which holds the record for the largest attendance at an English sporting event - 102,575 watched the 1954 Rugby League cup final between Halifax and Warrington - has become a white elephant.

A further £20 million would be required to bring its facilities up to an acceptable standard.

Bradford Northern, lying second in the championship table, have difficulty in attracting more than 4,000 spectators to their rugby league matches and they want to share Bradford City's stadium, rebuilt after the fire at a cost of £2.5 million.

The football club, under Jack Tordoff, the new chairman, would be happy to accommodate the rugby club, so long as they had the financial backing of the local council to develop the Midland Road side of their ground into a 6,000-seater stand suitable for first division football.

The cost, estimated at £4 million, could be recouped, it has been argued, from the use of Odsal as a tip.

A veritable prince in peasant's rags

From John Hennessy, Prague

Alexander Fadeyev, clad like a kind of capitalist peasant in glittering rags, established a strong base here yesterday from which to win his third European figure skating championship. He won the short programme of the men's competition on what the boxing fraternity would call a split decision, by six judges to three, from his compatriot, Viktor Petrenko, and can afford to finish only second in tonight's free skating to win the title.

For a former world champion and potential Olympic champion at Calgary next month that is not too ambitious a prospect. Both skaters executed clean triple axels in the combination jump and performed the other six required elements without flaw.

Vladimir Kotin made it a clean sweep for the Soviet Union to retain second place overall and Petrenko has risen from fifth to third to continue that country's remorseless domination of these championships, with the glowing exception of Katarina Witt, winner of the women's event for East Germany the night before.

Condemned to the middle group of skaters yesterday as a result of his modest placing in the compulsory figures, Robinson could not have expected the judges to be over-generous to him. He was, however, as a 5.4, were perfectly acceptable. As a result, he rose two places to eleventh and has a realistic hope of finishing in the top 10 for the first time.

Miss Witt, the world and Olympic champion, added a sixth European title to her glittering array of triumphs. She was a class above every other skater on the ice and easily overtook Kira Ivanova, of the Soviet Union, who had led overnight on the strength of her compulsory figures.

Joanne Conway, the British champion, had another disastrous experience. She fell on her first two attempts at triple jumps, salchow and toe loop, but was able to put one nice triple salchow in the bag later in the programme. This performance pulled her down to tenth place overall, the position she had achieved in the world championship last year.

RESULTS: Men's short programme: 1. A. Fadeyev (USSR), 1.0; 2. V. Petrenko (USSR), 3.4; 3. V. Petrenko (USSR), 3.4; 4. F. Robinson (GB), 4.2; 5. G. Robinson (GB), 4.4; 6. R. Zamboni (USA), 5.2; 7. K. Ivanova (USSR), 5.4; 8. P. Barna (CZ), 7.0; 9. R. Barna (CZ), 7.0; 10. A. Medvedev (USSR), 10.0; 11. A. Medvedev (USSR), 10.0; 12. J. Conway (GB), 11.0; 13. J. Conway (GB), 11.0; 14. J. Conway (GB), 11.0; 15. J. Conway (GB), 11.0; 16. J. Conway (GB), 11.0; 17. J. Conway (GB), 11.0; 18. J. Conway (GB), 11.0; 19. J. Conway (GB), 11.0; 20. J. Conway (GB), 11.0.

Pakistan report blames Gatting

Lahore (Reuters) - A Pakistani inquiry commission on incidents in the second Test in Faisalabad during England's strife-torn tour of Pakistan, has criticized both Mike Gatting, the England captain, and Peter Lush, the tour manager.

The report, made public at a news conference here yesterday, said Lush's criticisms of the umpiring after the first Test had raised tension. The two-man inquiry commission, appointed by the Board for the Control of Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), also criticized Shaukat Rana, the Pakistani umpire, for becoming involved in a slanging match with Gatting in the second Test, but kept his harshest words for Gatting.

"Mr Gatting's conduct, irrespective of the provocation, amounted to unacceptable behaviour and cannot be condoned," it said. "His conduct went beyond dissent and damaged the dignity and authority of the umpire."

Rana refused to continue until Gatting apologized, and more than a day's play was lost before he obliged, under orders from the Test and County Cricket Board.

General Salfar Butt, president of the BCCP, also criticized Lush during the news conference. "The manager of the England team should have realised that the umpires' authority is supreme and persuaded his captain to get on with it before the orders came from the TCCB," he said.

The commission said no matter what the England players' opinion of the standard of umpiring, the umpires were the sole arbiters of what was fair and unfair play. Gatting and Rana had admitted using abusive language, but accused each other of doing so first.

While condemning the England captain, it added: "Shaukat Rana should not have got involved in a slanging match with Gatting. He was the officiating umpire and should have exerted his authority rather than become a party to a verbal brawl." CHRISTCHURCH - England's cricketers had hardly touched New Zealand soil here yesterday before they were plunged back into the controversy over the Pakistan tour (the Press Association reports). Peter Lush, the manager, said that Shaukat Rana, Faisalabad, refused to make a letter of regret sent to him by Shaukat after the Faisalabad affair.

"It was not a letter of apology which we were expecting, and therefore we saw little point in publishing it," Lush said. "The Pakistan tour is finished and we want it dead and buried." Gatting, and the management team of Micki Stewart and Lush held have arranged to have a players' meeting yesterday, of which Gatting said: "We will be reminding the players of their responsibilities, as we always do. There will be a general warning about what is expected."

The England party were immediately in action when they launched themselves into a warm-up exercises session. Normally, a tour to New Zealand starts with a relaxing day or two, but not even a punishing 31-hour flight from London could deter the England management.



Treat of Versailles: Orwin enjoys fineout ball in England's practice yesterday near Paris

No war games on field of play, RFU warns

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The five nations' rugby championship begins in Paris and Dublin today with an appeal from John Burgess, the president of the Rugby Football Union, that the players involved should not treat the championship as a substitute for war.

Burgess, mindful of how the image of the game saw-sawed in 1987 from the hostility of the Wales-England encounter in Cardiff (after which England suspended four players for one match) to the grandeur of Scotland's two games with France in March and May and the outstanding moments of the World Cup (which also featured another drab display by England and Wales), said this week: "This game of ours is not a war."

"Some people treat it like one but it is a game of enjoyment and must be played as such, without any fifth. I am concerned there is

too much emotion in the game and when that emotion spills over it makes our game a little bitter."

Burgess will be in Paris for the 63rd encounter between France and England. Mike Harrison, the England captain, is convinced that his men will rise to the occasion. "The French team has been together for two years and we've had to work hard to try to match that cohesion, but the spirit of this team is magnificent."

"We are going out there with a very positive attitude. We will take the game to the French because if you come to Paris aiming to defend you play right into their hands. I'm confident we can play well - and win. We've got the players to dictate to them and play the game at our own pace. Their reputation won't mean a thing once the game starts."

Harrison points to

Cusworth's partnership with Melville as a match-winning force. "They are both experienced decision-makers and have them around makes life easier for me," he said. "They are the heart of the team. Nigel is not afraid to boss the forwards around and Les calls the shots and sets everything in motion. They will have a big influence on the game."

Jacques Fouroux, the French coach, says he is prepared to sacrifice style to guarantee success. "The aim of the French team is to win and play well, but in that order," he said. "This is not the ideal world and you cannot just play well and lose and accept that. That is the great French decision."

The two countries also meet at B level on an adjoining pitch three hours before the main attraction.

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Hardest part still to come

From Iain Macleod, Bad Kleincirchheim, Austria

Martin Bell rose yesterday to discover that he, a British skier, is an Alpine stronghold.

For whatever the reality of Bell's position as a lowlander among the Alpine elite, to head his illustrious fellow competitors even in practice, will again focus public expectation on the need for a fine talent to finally fulfil his potential by winning a world cup race.

Bell, however, is sufficiently realistic to play down any sort of glory and acknowledge that the events on race day are a vastly different matter. "I am certainly skiing as well as I was two years ago. But I will be satisfied with a place in the top ten," he said.

Bad Kleincirchheim,

which has staged this weekend's races at only nine days' notice, is surprisingly well organized. Yet the Carinthian region, which is close to the Yugoslav border, is no better off for snow than most other Austrian venues.

Although there is snow on the north face of the mountain, the south side of the valley protrudes abnormally with conditions which are more reminiscent of autumn. Thirty truck loads of snow had to be brought in from a neighbouring resort. Bell is hopeful that, with so much snow on the course, the colder conditions forecast overnight will prove to be correct.

The refusal to sanction the team's Olympic application has been a bitter blow for Mo Hammond, manager of the British team, who will be president of the Olympic jury in Calgary.

"Whatever has happened to the Olympic principle that competing is more important than winning," Hammond asked. "The Irish lads are certainly no no-hopers. They've made steady progress all the way and personally I can't understand any attempt to stop them competing in Calgary."

Tracey, however, suspects the fact he has recruited four members of the Irish Olympic rowing squad from the Neptune Rowing Club in Dublin, could be somewhere near the root of the issue.

"It's no secret that the rowing club don't like the idea of the lads bobbleheading," he said. "It also just happens that the president of the Irish Olympic council, Des O'Sullivan, is a member of the Neptune rowing club."

Tracey hopes for change of heart

"When we heard our application had been turned down it hit us like a bombshell. We had just finished first, second and fourth in a race in Calgary between countries without their own tracks, and were so certain of getting the all-clear, that we left our sleds in Calgary ready for the Olympics. But if we can get a good enough result in Cervinia this weekend I am still hoping the council will change their mind."

Fate, however, seems to have intervened again during practice. Tracey's brakeman, the deathly, Corran Smith, has had 10 stitches in his hand after slipping on the ice, and is out of today's two-man race, as is the Irish No. 2 brakeman, Sean Tunney, who suffered knee injuries when Jim Cassidy overtook on Thursday.

Rally ban is upheld

Per Eklund, the Swedish driver, and David Whittock, his British navigator, lost their final appeal before the International Automobile Federation (FIA) against disqualification from the Lombard RAC rally in November.

After the pair finished second, the inlet manifolds on their Audi Quattro were found to be illegal. The decision confirmed third place for the Britons Jimmy McRae and Ian Grindrod (Ford Sierra).

Manager back

Gerard Houliher has been re-appointed manager of Paris St Germain, the French first division club. He was replaced by Erick Mombaerts in October, but the club's board reinstated him and named Mombaerts as his assistant.

33 years on

Mercedes Benz will officially take part in motor races for the first time since 1954, when a car driven by the Frenchman, Pierre Levegh, crashed and flew into a crowd at the Le Mans 24-hour race killing 82 people.

Bowled over

Gloucestershire County Cricket Club are seeking an overseas player to replace Craig McDermott, the Australian opening bowler, who needs a knee operation at the end of the Australian season and will be unavailable to the county. The Queensland player, aged 22, has daily physiotherapy to enable him to bowl.

Racing change

The Mexican Formula One Grand Prix has been brought forward a week, to May 29 from June 5, FISA, the governing body of motor-racing, confirmed yesterday.

Phoenix shift

William Bidwell, who owns St Louis Cardinals, has told the NFL he wants to move the American Football team to Phoenix, Arizona, before the start of next season.

Swift change

Lloyd Christie, the British light-welterweight champion, will now face Tim Burgess, of New York, in a bout in Birmingham on January 19, after Joey Ferrell his original opponent, withdrew on Thursday without giving reason.

END COLUMN

Decision which slays the Irish

From Chris Moore, Cervinia

Irish sportsmen are renowned for their hard luck stories but few can rival the latest tale of woe to emanate from, of all people, the Irish bobblehead team.

Formed 18 months ago, they have since been officially ratified by the sports governing body, the Federation of International Bobbleheading and Tobogganing, and have competed regularly on the European circuit, including in last year's world championships in St Moritz.

Financed entirely by private means, they were all set to become the first ever Irish team to compete in the winter Olympic Games next month until being informed recently that their entry for Calgary had been blocked and rejected. Not by the FIIBT, nor by the Olympic organizing committee, but by their own Irish Olympic council.

Paying penalty for past Irish entries

Exactly why remains something of a mystery. But it would appear they are paying the penalty for past below-par performances of Irish entries in summer Olympic competition.

"We have appealed against the decision and are prepared to take our case to the Irish Minister of Sport if necessary," the Marlow mill-broker, Larry Tracey, said. He is the founder of the Irish Bobbleheading Association, and has invested around £100,000 of his own money in the team.

Offers of support have come from the likes of Kevin Dixon, the former batsman of Britain's 1964 Olympic champion, Tony Nash, who has offered to speak to the Irish Olympic council on the team's behalf. And there was also talk here last night, on the eve of today's final round of the Foster's world cup series, of a personal approach to Lord Killanin, the former president of the International Olympic Committee.

"I cannot imagine we would have received the same sort of negative attitude from our own Olympic council in his day," Tracey said.

"The main criteria we came up against after submitting our application was that we must finish in the top 10 of competition, which is a ridiculous target. We have raced against 14 other B nations this season and beaten 10 of them. Yet all the others, including New Zealand, Bulgaria, Romania, Portugal, the Virgin Islands and Monaco, are all going to be competing in Calgary."

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